

Zero vs First Conditional

Use the **zero conditional** for what's always true: *If you heat ice, it melts.* Use the **first** for one particular possible situation in the future: *If you leave the ice cream in the sun, it'll melt.*

ZERO CONDITIONAL · ALWAYS TRUE

If you **heat** ice, it **melts**.



FIRST CONDITIONAL · ONE POSSIBLE FUTURE

If you **leave** the ice cream out, it'll **melt**.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- If you mix yellow and blue, you _____ green.
a) get b) would get
- If you call me later, I _____ you the details.
a) give b) 'll give
- If people _____ enough sleep, they get ill more often.
a) won't get b) don't get
- If we _____ now, we'll be there by 8.
a) leave b) will leave
- If you heat metal, it _____.
a) expands b) would expand

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. If you will press this button, the machine starts.

2. If it will rain tomorrow, we'll stay in.

3. If water reaches 100°C, it would boil.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **Zero conditional** and one with **First conditional**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/zero-vs-first-conditional

Zero vs First Conditional

1. Choose the right answer

1. **a) get** Always true: zero conditional.
2. **b) 'll give** One particular future situation: first conditional.
3. **b) don't get** A general truth: Present Simple in both parts.
4. **a) leave** Never will in the if-part.
5. **a) expands** A scientific fact: zero conditional.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **If you press this button, the machine starts.** Never will in the if-part.
2. **If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay in.** The if-part takes the Present Simple, even for the future.
3. **If water reaches 100°C, it boils.** A scientific fact takes the zero conditional.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.