ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional is the most basic type of 'if' sentence in English, but is really important and useful to know. What is it and when is it used? Read on to find out!

Conditionals – a brief introduction

We use conditional sentences to describe possible situations that have a condition, referred to using 'if'. If one thing happens, another action can follow. For example, *If students study hard, they learn quickly.*

The 'if' clause of this sentence may or may not happen. The second part is certain.

In English, there are four types of conditional sentence – zero, first, second and third. And there are also mixed conditionals.

It's a good idea to learn them gradually, as students do, so you become confident in using each conditional one by one.

So let's start by looking at the zero conditional.

When do we use the zero conditional?

The zero conditional is used to express:

- General habits
- Permanent truths/facts

For example,

If I'm tired, I go to bed early. (This is what I usually do.)
If you heat water to 100°C, it boils. (This is a scientific fact.)

In both these examples I'm talking about a general time, not now or the future.

Reference:
Wall Street English (s.f.). The Zero Conditional. Retrieved from:
https://www.wallstreetenglish.com/exercises/the-zero-conditional - :~:text=The structure of the zero, into the freezer, it freezes.