Conditional Sentences 2:

The Zero Conditional = Certainty

We use the so-called **zero conditional** when the result of the condition is always true, like a scientific fact.

•	IF	condition present simple	result present simple
•	If	you heat ice	it melts.

Notice that we are thinking about a result that is always true for this condition. The result of the condition is an absolute **certainty**. We are not thinking about the future or the past, or even the present. We are thinking about a simple fact. We use the present simple tense to talk about the condition. We also use the present simple tense to talk about the result. The important thing about the zero conditional is that **the condition always has the same result**.

Here are some more examples:

- If I miss the 8 o'clock bus I am late for work.
  - I am late for work if I miss the 8 o'clock bus.
- If I am late for work my boss gets angry.
  - My boss gets angry if I am late for work.
- If people don't eat they get hungry.
  - People get hungry if they don't eat.
- If you heat ice does it melt?
  - Does ice melt if you heat it?

In the zero conditional we can also use **when** instead of **if**, for example:

- **When** I get up late I miss my bus.

There are no interactive exercises for this section