Zero Conditional

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which sentence describes the usual rule using the zero conditional?
   A. If the library closes, the front lights go off.
   B. If the library closes early tomorrow, the front lights will go off.
   C. If the library had closed, the front lights would have gone off.
   D. If the library closed, the front lights might go off.
   Correct answer: A. If the library closes, the front lights go off.
   Closes and go are both present simple forms, and the result describes what usually happens.

2. Finish the usual garden rule: ‘If the soil dries out, the gardener ___ the plants.’
   A. watered
   B. water
   C. waters
   D. watering
   Correct answer: C. waters
   Gardener is singular, so the present-simple result uses waters.

3. Complete the usual routine: ‘When my cousins ___, we make popcorn.’
   A. visits
   B. visit
   C. visited
   D. visiting
   Correct answer: B. visit
   When introduces the recurring condition here. The plural cousins takes visit.

4. What pattern do ‘if the light turns red’ and ‘traffic stops’ illustrate?
   A. Past simple, then future with will
   B. Present simple, then past simple
   C. Past simple in both clauses
   D. Present simple in both clauses
   Correct answer: D. Present simple in both clauses
   Turns and stops are both in the simple present.

5. Complete the standing rule: ‘If the players ___ the room code, they wait for the host.’

A. doesn’t know
B. don’t know
C. don’t knows
D. not know

Correct answer: B. don’t know
Players is plural, so use do not with the base form know.

6. Complete the rule: ‘If the drawer is locked, it ___.’

A. doesn’t open
B. doesn’t opens
C. don’t open
D. isn’t open it

Correct answer: A. doesn’t open
The singular subject takes doesn’t, followed by the base form open.

7. Which ending makes ‘If the neighborhood gets foggy’ describe a recurring routine?

A. the crossing guard would have worn a bright jacket.
B. the crossing guard wore a bright jacket yesterday.
C. the crossing guard will wear a bright jacket tomorrow.
D. the crossing guard wears a bright jacket.

Correct answer: D. the crossing guard wears a bright jacket.
Wears presents the action as the routine whenever fog occurs.

8. Which sentence preserves ‘If the alarm rings, the guard checks the door’ when the result comes first?

A. The guard will check the door if the alarm rang.
B. The alarm rings if the guard checks the door.
C. The guard checks the door if the alarm rings.
D. The guard checks the door after the alarm rang.

Correct answer: C. The guard checks the door if the alarm rings.
The result can appear before the if-clause. The condition remains the alarm ringing.

9. Which word fits ‘___ I finish a book, I add its title to my reading log’ to describe what happens each time?

A. Whenever
B. Although
C. Unless
D. Before

Correct answer: A. Whenever
Whenever introduces the recurring condition and means every time in this context.

10. Which sentence predicts one future event?

A. If our roof leaks, we put a bucket below it.
B. If it rains, the starting mat gets wet.
C. When it rains, I put on my boots.
D. If it rains before tomorrow’s race, we’ll move the start indoors.

Correct answer: D. If it rains before tomorrow’s race, we’ll move the start indoors.
The named future event and will mark a future consequence, unlike the habitual results in the other choices.

11. In ‘Our porch light comes on if the sensor detects movement,’ what triggers the light?

A. The porch light stops working.
B. The porch light comes on.
C. The sensor detects movement.
D. A person switches off the sensor.

Correct answer: C. The sensor detects movement.
The if-clause gives the condition. The light coming on is the result.

12. Which conventionally punctuates the zero conditional with the if-clause first?

A. If the shop, is busy we take a number.
B. If the shop is busy, we take a number.
C. If, the shop is busy we take a number.
D. If the shop is busy we, take a number.

Correct answer: B. If the shop is busy, we take a number.
The comma separates the opening if-clause from the result.

13. Complete the usual rule: ‘If the table ___ under a vent, the candle ___.’

A. stand / flicker
B. stand / flickers
C. stands / flicker
D. stands / flickers

Correct answer: D. stands / flickers
Table and candle are singular subjects. Each takes the third-person present form.

14. Which rewrite changes ‘When he got home, he fed the cat’ into a present-day routine?

A. When he gets home, he feeds the cat.
B. When he gets home, he fed the cat.
C. When he got home, he feeds the cat.
D. When he got home, he would have fed the cat.

Correct answer: A. When he gets home, he feeds the cat.
Gets and feeds both use the simple present to state a recurring routine.

15. Which sentence keeps the meaning of ‘The door remains shut unless you scan a pass’ using if?

A. If the door remains shut, you scan a pass.
B. If you scan a pass, the door remains shut.
C. If you don’t scan a pass, the door remains shut.
D. If you didn’t scan a pass, the door will remain shut forever.

Correct answer: C. If you don’t scan a pass, the door remains shut.
Unless introduces an exception. Here the normal result occurs if the pass is not scanned.