

# Zero and First Conditional Side-by-Side



The key difference between these two tenses is the likelihood of something happening in the future.



Zero Conditional	First Conditional
Truth or fact (100% going to happen)	Very likely future event (80-99% going to happen)



In zero conditional, for example, this sentence is presented as a fact, a truth. This means it is going to happen.

If you **sit** in the sun for 10 hours, you **burn**.



In first conditional, for example, this sentence is presented as a very likely future event, not 100% certain.

If you **sit** in the sun for 10 hours, you **will burn**.





Zero Conditional	First Conditional
General statement	Personal statement for a particular situation



In zero conditional, for example, this sentence is very general and applicable to anybody.

If you **sit** in the sun for 10 hours, you **burn**.



In first conditional, for example, this sentence is more personal and used in a particular situation. If you're talking to an individual, warning them, you would use the first conditional.

If you **sit** in the sun for 10 hours, you will burn.



Zero Conditional	First Conditional
General statement	Personal statement for a particular situation



If ice-cream gets

If your ice-cream warm, it melts. gets warm, it will melt.

