



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Zero Conditional in Safety and Rules

Safety and Rules | If + present, present | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	What happens if people cross the road without looking?
2	What happens if students share passwords?
3	What happens if people ignore safety signs?
4	What happens if a school rule is broken?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Simple Rules That Prevent Problems

If people **cross** a busy road without looking, they **put** themselves in danger. Road safety rules are simple, but they matter.

Online safety works in a similar way. If students **share** passwords, their accounts **become** easier to hack. If a message looks suspicious, careful users check it before clicking.

Schools also need clear rules. If someone **breaks** a rule in a laboratory or sports hall, the teacher **stops** the activity until everyone is safe.

3. Notice the pattern

Use the zero conditional for general truths, rules and things that usually happen.

Use	Form / signal	Example
If clause	present simple	If people ignore safety signs,
Result clause	present simple	accidents happen.
Meaning	general truth/rule	If students share passwords, accounts become less safe.
Comma rule	comma after first if clause	If a message looks suspicious, careful users check it.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	If people / ignore / traffic lights, accidents / happen.	present + present	
2	If students / share / passwords, accounts / become / unsafe.	present + present	
3	If someone / break / a lab rule, the teacher / stop / the activity.	present + present	
4	If a sign / say / danger, people / need / to be careful.	present + present	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Explain three safety rules and what happens if people ignore them.
Writing	Write advice for younger students about online or road safety using the zero conditional.
Reading	Underline zero conditional sentences in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	If people will ignore signs, accidents happen.	
2	If students shares passwords, accounts become unsafe.	
3	If someone breaks a rule, the teacher will stops the activity.	
4	If a sign say danger, people need to be careful.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Which safety rule is most important at school?
2. What happens if people use phones while crossing roads?
3. What happens if students ignore online safety advice?
4. Are rules more useful when they are explained clearly?

Zero Conditional in Safety and Rules

4. Build accurate sentences

1. If people ignore traffic lights, accidents happen.
2. If students share passwords, accounts become unsafe.
3. If someone breaks a lab rule, the teacher stops the activity.
4. If a sign says danger, people need to be careful.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. If people ignore signs, accidents happen.
2. If students share passwords, accounts become unsafe.
3. If someone breaks a rule, the teacher stops the activity.
4. If a sign says danger, people need to be careful.

Notes for checking

1. If clause: present simple - If people ignore safety signs,
2. Result clause: present simple - accidents happen.
3. Meaning: general truth/rule - If students share passwords, accounts become less safe.
4. Comma rule: comma after first if clause - If a message looks suspicious, careful users check it.