



Zero Conditional: Negatives, "When" & "Unless"

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- If you ___ water plants regularly, they die.
a) don't
b) doesn't
c) won't
d) aren't
- ___ you press this button, the machine starts.
a) While
b) When
c) Until
d) Before
- The engine ___ start if you don't put fuel in it.
a) don't
b) won't
c) doesn't
d) isn't
- ___ you eat too much sugar, you gain weight.
a) Unless
b) Although
c) Until
d) If
- Unless you ___ sun cream, you get sunburnt.
a) don't wear
b) wear
c) wore
d) will wear
- When the temperature ___ below zero, roads become icy.
a) fall
b) will fall
c) fell
d) falls
- If a student ___ do the homework, the teacher gives extra practice.
a) doesn't
b) don't
c) won't
d) isn't
- When you ___ ice cream out of the freezer, it melts.
a) takes
b) took
c) take
d) will take
- If it rains, ___ an umbrella.
a) took
b) takes
c) take
d) taking
- Unless the battery ___ charged, the phone doesn't turn on.
a) is
b) be
c) will be
d) are
- Children ___ learn well if they don't sleep enough.
a) won't
b) doesn't
c) aren't
d) don't

12. When you ___ an egg in boiling water, the shell cracks.
a) puts
b) put
c) will put
d) putting
13. If you feel dizzy, ___ down immediately.
a) sat
b) sits
c) sitting
d) sit
14. The car ___ work unless you turn the key.
a) don't
b) won't
c) doesn't
d) not
15. ___ you heat chocolate, it becomes liquid.
a) Unless
b) When
c) Although
d) Before
16. If you ___ eat breakfast, you feel hungry by mid-morning.
a) don't
b) won't
c) doesn't
d) aren't
17. Unless the soil ___ enough nutrients, crops grow poorly.
a) has
b) have
c) had
d) will have
18. If there ___ a fire, ___ the building calmly.
a) will be, left
b) are, leave
c) is, leaving
d) is, leave
19. When my cat ___ hungry, she meows loudly.
a) are
b) will be
c) is
d) be
20. You ___ lose weight unless you exercise regularly.
a) doesn't
b) don't
c) won't
d) aren't



Answers

1. a) don't
2. b) When
3. c) doesn't
4. d) If
5. b) wear
6. d) falls
7. a) doesn't
8. c) take
9. c) take
10. a) is
11. d) don't
12. b) put
13. d) sit
14. c) doesn't
15. b) When
16. a) don't
17. a) has
18. d) is, leave
19. c) is
20. b) don't



Explanations

1. “don't” (a)

'You' requires 'don't' for negation. 'If you don't water plants' = a general truth about plant care.

2. “When” (b)

In zero conditionals, 'when' and 'if' are interchangeable because the result always happens. 'When you press this button' = every time you press it.

3. “doesn't” (c)

'The engine' is third person singular → 'doesn't'. This is a general fact, not a future prediction, so we use present simple (not 'won't').

4. “If” (d)

'If you eat too much sugar' introduces a zero conditional — a general truth. 'Unless' would reverse the meaning (= if you don't eat).

5. “wear” (b)

'Unless' already means 'if...not', so do NOT add another negative. 'Unless you wear' = 'If you don't wear'.

6. “falls” (d)

'The temperature' is third person singular → 'falls'. 'When' works like 'if' here because this always happens.

7. “doesn't” (a)

'A student' is third person singular → 'doesn't'. This describes a general classroom rule.

8. “take” (c)

'You' takes the base form 'take'. 'When' replaces 'if' because this always happens.

9. “take” (c)

The result clause uses an imperative (a command/instruction): 'take an umbrella'. Zero conditionals can pair an if-clause with an imperative.

10. “is” (a)

'The battery' is third person singular → 'is'. 'Unless the battery is charged' = 'If the battery is not charged'.

11. “don't” (d)

'Children' is plural → 'don't'. Both clauses are negative here: result (don't learn) and condition (don't sleep).

12. “put” (b)

'You' takes the base form 'put'. 'When' and 'if' are interchangeable in zero conditionals.

13. “sit” (d)

This is an imperative in the result clause — a direct instruction. 'Sit down' has no subject because imperatives address 'you' implicitly.

14. “doesn't” (c)

'The car' is third person singular → 'doesn't'. 'Unless you turn the key' = 'if you don't turn the key'.

15. “When” (b)

'When' works like 'if' in zero conditionals because the result always occurs. This describes a general fact about chocolate.

16. “don't” (a)

'You' requires 'don't' for negation. This describes a general consequence of skipping breakfast.

17. “has” (a)

'The soil' is third person singular → 'has'. 'Unless the soil has' = 'If the soil doesn't have'.

18. “is, leave” (d)

'There is' (singular) for the condition + imperative 'leave' for the instruction. This is a safety rule using zero conditional.

19. “is” (c)

'My cat' is third person singular → 'is'. 'When' here means 'every time' — a habitual truth.

20. “don't” (b)

'You' requires 'don't'. 'Unless you exercise' = 'If you don't exercise'. This states a general health principle.