Zero conditional personalised sentence completion game (writing/ speaking/ grammar)

On your own, fill in at least half of the gaps below to make some true sentences about your normal reaction in the situations given, for example “If I wake up early, I usually try to read a book but fall back to sleep”. *If any of the sentences are things you never do you can leave them blank.*

- If/ when I wake up early, _____________________________________
- If/ when I wake up late, ________________________________
- If/ when I spend too much at the shops, _______________________
- If/ when I see a colleague in the street when I am not working, _______________________
- If/ when I feel especially energetic, _______________________
- If/ when I feel stressed, ______________________________
- If/ when I feel depressed, ______________________________
- If/ when I have a difficult personal problem, _______________________
- If/ when my clothes don’t fit because I have put on weight, _______________________
- If/ when my parents ask me to do something I don’t want to, _______________________
- If/ when I want to know the latest gossip, _______________________
- If/ when my brother or sister says something I don’t like, _______________________
- If/ when something in my house doesn’t work, _______________________
- If/ when I get sweaty, ______________________________
- If/ when I accidentally break something, _______________________

In pairs, read your partner only the part you have written of one of the sentences above, e.g. “...I go to the hairdresser’s”. Your partner will try to guess which sentence it comes from, e.g.:

Student A: “I think that when you want to know the latest gossip, you go to the hairdresser’s”  
Student B: “No, I don’t”/ “No, that’s not true”  
Student A: “Hmm. Maybe if you feel stressed, you go to the hairdresser’s”  
Student B: “Maybe that’s true, but this sentence is different”  
Student A “A ha, I know! If you have a difficult personal problem, you go to the hairdresser’s”  
Student B “That’s right! He’s a great person to talk to.”

*Continue guessing sentences until your teacher asks you to stop*
Grammar Presentation

Match these sentences endings to the gaps on Page One above:

I just buy new ones
I cry

What is the tense of each underlined verb in the full sentence below?
If/ when my clothes don’t fit because I have put on weight, I just buy new ones
If/ when my brother or sister says something I don’t like, I cry

Is the tense used in the first part and second part of the sentence the same?
Is the tense used the Present Simple (like He usually wakes up at 7 o’clock) or the infinitive (like He wants to wake up at 7 o’clock tomorrow)?

What is the difference in meaning and grammar between “If/ when my clothes don’t fit because I have put on weight, I just buy new ones” and “If my clothes don’t fit after I live in England next year, I will buy new ones”?

Further practice

Write five more true zero conditional sentences about your usual reactions to things, but this time creating the whole sentence yourself, e.g. “If I have money left at the end of the month, I spend it on CDs”

1. If/ when ____________________________, ____________________________
2. If/ when ____________________________, ____________________________
3. If/ when ____________________________, ____________________________
4. If/ when ____________________________, ____________________________
5. If/ when ____________________________, ____________________________

Like on Page One above, read out only the second parts of the sentences you have written and see if your partner can guess what the first part is.