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## Grammar Reference

### 'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to'

- The auxiliary **can**, in the **infinitive form**, is **to be able to**.

*Example:*

It's great **to be able to** speak many languages.

- The **future** of the auxiliary **can** is **will be able to**.

*Example:*

Don't worry. I'll (will) **be able to** pick you up.

- The **preterite** of the auxiliary **can** is **could**.

*Example:*

He **could** be very kind sometimes.

I **couldn't** hear anything because of the music.

### • The present subjunctive

#### A - Construction

The form of the **present subjunctive** corresponds to the **infinitive** form **without to**.

*Example:*

I suggest that you **try** this beer.

- He ordered I **be** there at ten o'clock.

**B - Use** The **present subjunctive** is used in formal speech to express:

- an **order** (after 'to order,' 'to command,' 'the order'...)
- a **suggestion** (after 'to suggest,' 'to insist,' 'to ask,' 'the suggestion'... )
- a **necessity** (after 'it is necessary that,' 'it is imperative that,' 'it is important that'... ) and sometimes after 'on the condition (that).'

*Example:*

The judge gave the **order** he not **be** penalized.

The lawyer **asks** the session **be** closed.

- **It is imperative that** you **participate** in this project.

## Irregular comparatives

Some **adjectives** and **adverbs** have **irregular comparative** forms. The most common examples follow.

<u>Adjective or adverb</u>	<u>Irregular comparative</u>
good	better
bad	worse
far	farther/further
much/many	more
little	less