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## Grammar Reference

### a. Use of the present conditional

The **present conditional** is used:

- in a **principal clause** of which the **dependent** (often understood) is introduced by **if + preterite** and expresses a **condition** or an **assumption**.

*Example:*

**If I had** time, I'd (**would**) do many things.

- to express the idea of **future** in the **past**.

*Example:*

I **thought** she **wouldn't** come.

- to offer, ask for or state something with **politeness**.

*Example:*

**Would** you like a drink?

I'd (**would**) like to go swimming.

We **should** say he **didn't** fit the job.

### b. Construction of compound nouns

- The **compound noun** is made up of a **principal noun preceded** by one or several **nouns** or a **noun phrase** that has the same **function** as an **adjective**.

*Example:* an alarm clock, a bedroom,  
the London-New York flight

- The **first element** is always in the **singular**, even if it has a plural sense, except if it exists only in the plural form or if there is risk of ambiguity.

*Example:* **ski** boots, a clothes factory, a goods-train  
(risk of ambiguity if 'good' was in the singular )

- Most **compound nouns** are written as two (or several) **separate** words. **Some of them** are written with a **dash**, others as a **single word**.

*Example:* a great-grandfather, housework

Note. The same compound noun can sometimes be written as two words, with a dash or as single word.

*Example:* ice-cream, ice cream.

### c. Verb + infinitive clause

The **infinitive clause**, which may **follow** any **verb** that expresses its subject's **command, wish, interdiction, preference**, is formed using **verb + object noun** or **pronoun + infinitive**.

- The following verbs are normally **active** when they introduce **infinitive clauses**: 'to want,' 'to like,' 'to love,' 'to wish,' 'to get,' and 'to cause.'

*Example:*

He **wants John to rent** a replacement vehicle.  
When **would** you **like your car to be** ready?

- The following verbs may be **active** or **passive** when they introduce **infinitive clauses**:  
'to intend,' 'to mean,' 'to force,' 'to compel,'  
'to order,' 'to forbid,' and 'to expect.'

Example: He **ordered the prisoners to be freed**.  
He **was ordered to pay** at once.

Note. 'Not' **precedes** the **infinitive**.

Example: He **expects you not to say** anything.