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**Step by Step  
Simplified FRENCH  
GRAMMAR Booklet 7**

**Le Conditionnel.  
Qu'est-Ce que C'est?  
Sample**

By

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# Grammar Booklet

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## Introduction: A Word about Grammar

*Grammar.* Just saying or reading the word makes most of the learners panic! People have a negative feeling about French grammar. They have heard about irregular verbs, weird tenses, nouns and gender...

That's why this booklet concentrates only on one grammar subject and is compiled with only very simplified grammatical points.

You will be guided step by step and all the points are defined and explained.

At the end of each mini lesson, you will be able to test your knowledge and learn new vocabulary by working with cultural and authentic literary texts.

*Grammar, which knows how to control even kings." Molière*

Now that you know how to recognise an infinitive verb (a full verb) that ends in -ER, -IR or -RE this is going to make things easier for you when you need to use the conditional tense.

Once you master the **future** tense, understanding and using the conditional tense will be easy.

### When is the conditional used?

1. To talk about events with no guarantee to happen.
2. In English, you will use **would** to form the conditional tense.
3. When there is a **IF** condition, **SI**  
➔ Si je pouvais, je viendrais. *If I could, I would come.*

### When is the verb aimer (to love) used?

1. To express a wish, a desire in a polite way.  
➔ J'aimerais de la glace à la vanille. *I would love some vanilla ice cream.*
2. To express a wish that might never occur.  
➔ J'aimerais tant aller à San Francisco. *I would love to go to San Francisco so much.*

### When is the verb vouloir (to want) used?

1. To express a wish, a desire in a polite way.  
➔ Je voudrais de la glace à la vanille. *I would like some vanilla ice cream.*

### When is the verb *pouvoir* (to be able to) used?

1. To express a suggestion, a possibility of doing something.
2. Translated by **could** in English.
  - ➡ Je pourrais venir te voir demain. *I could come and see you tomorrow.*
  - ➡ Pourrais-je venir te voir demain? *Could I come and see you tomorrow?*

### When is the verb *devoir* (to have to) used?

1. To express something that should be done.
2. Translated by **should** in English.
  - ➡ Tu devrais réviser ton bac. *You should revise for your leaving cert.*

### How is the conditional formed?

#### ✗ 1ST STEP

To form the conditional tense of **-ER** and **-IR** verbs: keep **-ER** or **-IR** and then add the appropriate endings to the infinitive.

➡ Finir → je finirais

To form the conditional tense of **-RE** verbs, drop the final E then add the appropriate endings.

➡ Prendre → je prendrais

#### ✗ 2ND STEP

Add the following endings: **-ais**

**-ais**

**-ait**

**-ions**

**-iez**

**-aient**

*How do you conjugate at the conditional tense a regular verb of the -ER group (premier groupe)?*

The first group verbs are all the ones which end up with **-ER** at the infinitive.

To conjugate an **-ER verb** at the conditional tense, keep the ending **-ER** and add the appropriate endings:

**-ais -**

**ais -**

**ait -**

**ions -**

**iez -**

**aient**

**TIP:** When the subject is **tu**, the verb always ends with an **S**  
(exceptions: *tu vaux you are worth, tu veux you want, tu peux you can*)

- ✗ Let's take the verb **louer** (to rent)
- ▶ keep the infinitive ending **-ER** and add the endings:

LOUER	Singulier	Pluriel
1 <sup>ere</sup> personne	Je louerais	Nous louerions
2 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Tu louerais	Vous loueriez
3 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Il/ Elle/On louerait	Ils/Elles loueraient

*How do you conjugate at the conditional tense a regular verb of the -IR group (deuxième groupe)?*

The second group verbs are all the ones which end up with **-IR** at the infinitive and that have a present participle ending in **-issant**.

