

# About the input stream

noForth behaves as if input comes from a file. This means that text between "(" and ")" may contain more than one line:

```
(
  this text
  will be skipped
)
```

In noForth "(" is defined as:

```
: ( ( -- ) [char] ) beyond ; immediate
```

BEYOND scans for a character over multiple lines.

```
char % beyond
this text will be skipped
%
```

You saw the words [CHAR] and CHAR in the examples above. noForth has also CH (a prefix). The rule is very simple:

**Use CH when the character immediately follows, otherwise use CHAR**

Forget about [CHAR] but never POSTPONE a prefix ;)

```
: ( ( -- ) ch ) beyond ; immediate
ch % beyond
this text will be skipped
%
```

To skip text with a ")" in it you could define:

```
: COMMENT char beyond ; immediate
comment *
this text will ( also ) be skipped
*
```

BL-WORD is a BL WORD that REFILLS when necessary. You could use it to define a simple [IF]-[THEN] (no [ELSE], no nesting):

```
: [THEN] ; immediate
: [IF] ( t/f -- ) ?exit
begin bl-word find drop ['] [then] =
until ; immediate
```