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# How to define a rule

Most business rules are evaluated when a particular business object is created or modified and therefore most rules are attached to business objects. Some rules may also be attached to notifications (they are evaluated when a notification is created or received) or to timer events (scheduling rules). A rule consists of a condition (which is optional) and actions. To define a rule you need to specify these conditions and actions using the Rule Language. To make this task simpler **AwareIM** provides the Context Assistant, which prompts you for the right actions and conditional expressions to use when defining a rule. You can also use the information provided in the [AwareIM Rule Language Reference](#) section.

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