it results in an error. If too many prepared statements are created and not deallocated by either the `DEALLOCATE PREPARE` statement or the end of the session, you might encounter the upper limit enforced by the `max_prepared_stmt_count` system variable.

For examples, see Section 13.5, “Prepared Statements”.

13.6 Compound Statement Syntax

This section describes the syntax for the `BEGIN ... END` compound statement and other statements that can be used in the body of stored programs: Stored procedures and functions, triggers, and events. These objects are defined in terms of SQL code that is stored on the server for later invocation (see Chapter 25, *Stored Objects*).

A compound statement is a block that can contain other blocks; declarations for variables, condition handlers, and cursors; and flow control constructs such as loops and conditional tests.

13.6.1 BEGIN ... END Compound Statement

```
[begin_label:] BEGIN
    [statement_list]
END [end_label]
```

`BEGIN ... END` syntax is used for writing compound statements, which can appear within stored programs (stored procedures and functions, triggers, and events). A compound statement can contain multiple statements, enclosed by the `BEGIN` and `END` keywords. *`statement_list`* represents a list of one or more statements, each terminated by a semicolon (`;`) statement delimiter. The *`statement_list`* itself is optional, so the empty compound statement (`BEGIN END`) is legal.

`BEGIN ... END` blocks can be nested.

Use of multiple statements requires that a client is able to send statement strings containing the `;` statement delimiter. In the `mysql` command-line client, this is handled with the `delimiter` command. Changing the `;` end-of-statement delimiter (for example, to `//`) permit `;` to be used in a program body. For an example, see Section 25.1, “Defining Stored Programs”.

A `BEGIN ... END` block can be labeled. See Section 13.6.2, “Statement Labels”.

The optional `[NOT] ATOMIC` clause is not supported. This means that no transactional savepoint is set at the start of the instruction block and the `BEGIN` clause used in this context has no effect on the current transaction.

Note

Within all stored programs, the parser treats `BEGIN [WORK]` as the beginning of a `BEGIN ... END` block. To begin a transaction in this context, use `START TRANSACTION` instead.

13.6.2 Statement Labels

```
[begin_label:] BEGIN
    [statement_list]
END [end_label]

[begin_label:] LOOP
    statement_list
END LOOP [end_label]
```