

Python from Scratch

Python If ... Else

Lesson 14

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Python If ... Else

Python Conditions and If statements

Python supports the usual logical conditions from mathematics:

- Equals: `a == b`
- Not Equals: `a != b`
- Less than: `a < b`
- Less than or equal to: `a <= b`
- Greater than: `a > b`
- Greater than or equal to: `a >= b`

These conditions can be used in several ways, most commonly in "if statements" and loops.

An "if statement" is written by using the `if` keyword.

Example

If statement:

```
a = 33
b = 200
if b > a:
    print("b is greater than a")
```

In this example we use two variables, `a` and `b`, which are used as part of the if statement to test whether `b` is greater than `a`. As `a` is 33, and `b` is 200, we know that 200 is greater than 33, and so we print to screen that "b is greater than a".

Indentation

Python relies on indentation (whitespace at the beginning of a line) to define scope in the code. Other programming languages often use curly-brackets for this purpose.

Example

If statement, without indentation (will raise an error):

```
a = 33
b = 200
if b > a:
    print("b is greater than a") # you will get an error
```

Elif

The **elif** keyword is Python's way of saying "if the previous conditions were not true, then try this condition".

Example

```
a = 33
b = 33
if b > a:
    print("b is greater than a")
elif a == b:
    print("a and b are equal")
```

In this example **a** is equal to **b**, so the first condition is not true, but the **elif** condition is true, so we print to screen that "a and b are equal".

Else

The **else** keyword catches anything which isn't caught by the preceding conditions.

Example

```
a = 200
b = 33
if b > a:
    print("b is greater than a")
elif a == b:
    print("a and b are equal")
else:
    print("a is greater than b")
```

In this example **a** is greater than **b**, so the first condition is not true, also the **elif** condition is not true, so we go to the **else** condition and print to screen that "a is greater than b".

You can also have an **else** without the **elif**:

Example

```
a = 200
b = 33
if b > a:
    print("b is greater than a")
else:
    print("b is not greater than a")
```

Short Hand If

If you have only one statement to execute, you can put it on the same line as the if statement.

Example

One line if statement:

```
if a > b: print("a is greater than b")
```

Short Hand If ... Else

If you have only one statement to execute, one for if, and one for else, you can put it all on the same line:

Example

One line if else statement:

```
a = 2  
b = 330  
print("A") if a > b else print("B")
```

This technique is known as **Ternary Operators**, or **Conditional Expressions**.

You can also have multiple else statements on the same line:

Example

One line if else statement, with 3 conditions:

```
a = 330  
b = 330  
print("A") if a > b else print("=") if a ==  
b else print("B")
```

And

The **and** keyword is a logical operator, and is used to combine conditional statements:

Example

Test if **a** is greater than **b**, AND if **c** is greater than **a**:

```
a = 200
b = 33
c = 500
if a > b and c > a:
    print("Both conditions are True")
```

Or

The **or** keyword is a logical operator, and is used to combine conditional statements:

Example

Test if **a** is greater than **b**, OR if **a** is greater than **c**:

```
a = 200
b = 33
c = 500
if a > b or a > c:
    print("At least one of the conditions is True")
```

Not

The `not` keyword is a logical operator, and is used to reverse the result of the conditional statement:

Example

Test if `a` is NOT greater than `b`:

```
a = 33
b = 200
if not a > b:
    print("a is NOT greater than b")
```

Nested If

You can have `if` statements inside `if` statements, this is called *nested if* statements.

Example

```
x = 41

if x > 10:
    print("Above ten,")
    if x > 20:
        print("and also above 20!")
    else:
        print("but not above 20.")
```

The pass Statement

`if` statements cannot be empty, but if you for some reason have an `if` statement with no content, put in the `pass` statement to avoid getting an error.

Example

```
a = 33
b = 200
```

```
if b > a:
    pass
```

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Print "Hello World" if `a` is greater than `b`.

```
a = 50
b = 10
 a  b 
    print("Hello World")
```