

Exercise 1.6. Alyssa P. Hacker doesn't see why `if` needs to be provided as a special form.

“Why can't I just define it as an ordinary procedure in terms of `cond`?” she asks. Alyssa's friend

Eva Lu Ator claims this can indeed be done, and she defines a new version of `if`:

```
(define (new-if predicate then-clause else-clause)
  (cond (predicate then-clause)
        (else else-clause)))
```

Eva demonstrates the program for Alyssa:

```
(new-if (= 2 3) 0 5)
```

5

```
(new-if (= 1 1) 0 5)
```

0

Delighted, Alyssa uses `new-if` to rewrite the square-root program:

```
(define (sqrt-iter guess x)
  (new-if (good-enough? guess x)
          guess
          (sqrt-iter (improve guess x)
                     x)))
```

What happens when Alyssa attempts to use this to compute square roots? Explain.