UNIX / LINUX SHELL - THE IF...FI STATEMENT

The **if...fi** statement is the fundamental control statement that allows Shell to make decisions and execute statements conditionally.

Syntax

```
if [ expression ]
then
    Statement(s) to be executed if expression is true
fi
```

The *Shell expression* is evaluated in the above syntax. If the resulting value is *true*, given *statement(s)* are executed. If the *expression* is *false* then no statement would be executed. Most of the times, comparison operators are used for making decisions.

It is recommended to be careful with the spaces between braces and expression. No space produces a syntax error.

If **expression** is a shell command, then it will be assumed true if it returns **0** after execution. If it is a Boolean expression, then it would be true if it returns true.

Example

Live Demo
```
#!/bin/sh

a=10
b=20

if [ $a == $b ]
then
   echo "a is equal to b"
fi

if [ $a != $b ]
then
   echo "a is not equal to b"
fi
```

The above script will generate the following result −

```
a is not equal to b
```