

Chapter 6: Control Flow (Decision Making)

"Without decisions, your code is just instructions. With decisions, it starts to think."

What You'll Learn

- How to use `if`, `elif`, and `else` to make decisions
- How Python chooses which path to follow
- How to use nested conditions (like questions inside questions)
- Why indentation matters in Python
- What the `pass` keyword does
- Debugging common errors beginners face

Introduction: Control Flow = The Brain of Your Code

In real life:

- If you're hungry → eat.
- If it's raining → take an umbrella.
- Else → go outside and enjoy.


In Python, we teach the computer to **do the same** using:

```
1 if
2 elif
3 else
```

That's called control flow — telling the program "Do this if that is true, otherwise do something else."

The if Statement

```
1 age = 18
2
3 if age >= 18:
4     print("You are an adult.")
```

 Concept: Python checks the condition.
If it's True, it runs the indented block.
If it's False, it skips it.

Flowchart

```
1      [age >= 18?]
2      |
3      Yes / \ No
4      /      \
5  [print("You are an adult.")] (skip)
```

if and else

```
1  temperature = 15
2
3  if temperature > 20:
4      print("It's warm.")
5  else:
6      print("It's cold.")
```

 Think of it like a fork in the road:

```
1      [condition]
2      /      \
3      True     False
4      /      \
5  [do this]   [do that]
```

Using elif (Else If)

```
1  marks = 85
2
3  if marks >= 90:
4      print("Grade: A")
5  elif marks >= 80:
6      print("Grade: B")
7  elif marks >= 70:
8      print("Grade: C")
9  else:
10     print("Grade: D or below")
```

How Python Evaluates:

```
1  Check condition 1 → if True, stop.
2  Else → check condition 2 → if True, stop.
3  Else → keep checking...
```

Flowchart

```
1 [marks >= 90?]—Yes—► A
2   |
3   No
4 [marks >= 80?]—Yes—► B
5   |
6   No
7 [marks >= 70?]—Yes—► C
8   |
9   No
10      ► D or below
```

Nested Conditionals

```
1 age = 20
2 has_id = True
3
4 if age >= 18:
5     if has_id:
6         print("Entry allowed.")
7     else:
8         print("Show ID.")
9 else:
10    print("Too young.")
```

 Think of it like layers of checking:

First: "Are you 18+?"

Then: "Do you have ID?"

 Visual:

```
1 [age >= 18?]
2   |
3   Yes
4   ↓
5 [has_id?]—Yes—► "Entry allowed"
6   |
7   No
8   ↓
9 "Show ID"
10
11 Else → "Too young"
```

The pass Statement

Used when you want to define a condition or block but leave it empty for now.

```
1 if logged_in:
2     pass # I'll write this later
3 else:
4     print("Please log in")
```

✅ `pass` = do nothing

Useful during planning or temporary stubs.

← Why Indentation Matters

❌ Wrong

```
1 if True:
2     print("This will error")
```

✅ Right

```
1 if True:
2     print("This is correct")
```

Python needs proper indentation to know which code belongs inside the block.

Standard = 4 spaces or 1 tab

⚠ Common Mistakes

❌ Mistake	✅ Fix	🧠 Why
<code>if x = 5:</code>	<code>if x == 5:</code>	<code>=</code> is assignment; <code>==</code> is compare
Missing colon <code>:</code>	Add colon at end	Python needs it to start block
No indentation	Indent block	Python uses spaces to define scope

🔧 Mini Quiz (10 Questions)

1. What does `elif` stand for?
2. What happens if all `if` and `elif` are false?
3. Write an if statement to check if a number is negative.
4. What's wrong with this?

```
1 if 5 > 3
2     print("Yes")
```

5. Why is indentation important in Python?
6. What does `pass` do?
7. Create a nested `if` to check if a user is adult and has ID.

8. What will this print?

```
1 x = 5
2 if x > 10:
3     print("Big")
4 else:
5     print("Small")
```

9. What is the output of:

```
1 x = 10
2 if x == 10:
3     print("Ten")
```

10. Fix this code:

```
1 if name = "John":
2     print("Hello")
```

Basic Practice (15 Questions)

- Check if a number is even or odd
- Check if someone is eligible to vote (18+)
- Ask for a number and print if it's + / - / 0
- Ask for temperature and classify as cold/warm/hot
- Take two numbers and print the larger one
- Use nested `if` to check if a user has passed and has ID
- Use `pass` in a dummy condition
- Ask for time. If $<12 \rightarrow$ "Good morning"
- Check if a number is divisible by both 3 and 5
- Check if a number is between 10 and 100
- Use if-elif-else to assign letter grades
- Check if someone is a teenager (13–19)
- Ask name and print only if it starts with "A"
- If year is leap year (basic logic only)
- Ask user input. If empty \rightarrow "Please enter something"

Intermediate Practice (10 Problems)

- Ask for name and age. If $\text{age} \geq 18$ and name isn't empty \rightarrow "Access granted"
- Ask for 3 subject marks \rightarrow Grade A/B/C/D

- Temp ranges:
 - <0 : "Freezing"
 - 0–15: "Cold"
 - 16–25: "Cool"
 - 26+: "Warm"
- If one number is exactly double the other → "Nice match!"
- If number > 50 and even → "Perfect!"
- Ask for age. If < 13 → "Child", if 13–19 → "Teen", else → "Adult"
- Ask for username and password. If both correct → "Login successful"
- Ask for a color. If it's "red", "blue", or "green" → valid color
- Check if a year is divisible by 4 and not 100 unless also 400
- Simulate traffic light: red → stop, green → go, yellow → wait

Fix-the-Bug Challenges (5)

```
1 | if age > 18
2 |     print("OK")
```

```
1 | x = 10
2 | if x == 10
3 |     print("Ten")
```

```
1 | if user = "admin":
2 |     print("welcome")
```

```
1 | temp = 30
2 | if temp < 20:
3 |     print("Cold")
4 | else
5 |     print("Hot")
```

```
1 | if name == "Alice":
2 |     print("Hi")
```

Mini Project: Smart Greeter

Ask the user:

- Name
- Time (24-hr format)

Use logic:

- If time < 12 → "Good morning, [name]"
- If time < 18 → "Good afternoon, [name]"
- Else → "Good evening, [name]"