

There are no restrictions on what kind of statements can appear inside an *if* statement. In fact, it's not unusual for *if* statements to be nested inside other *if* statements. Consider the following *if* statement, which finds the largest of the numbers stored in *i*, *j*, and *k* and stores that value in *max*:

```
if (i > j)
    if (i > k)
        max = i;
    else
        max = k;
else
    if (j > k)
        max = j;
    else
        max = k;
```

if statements can be nested to any depth. Notice how aligning each *else* with the matching *if* makes the nesting easier to see. If you still find the nesting confusing, don't hesitate to add braces:

```
if (i > j) {
    if (i > k)
        max = i;
    else
        max = k;
} else {
    if (j > k)
        max = j;
    else
        max = k;
}
```

Adding braces to statements—even when they're not necessary—is like using parentheses in expressions: both techniques help make a program more readable while at the same time avoiding the possibility that the compiler won't understand the program the way we thought it did.

Some programmers use as many braces as possible inside *if* statements (and iteration statements as well). A programmer who adopts this convention would include a pair of braces for every *if* clause and every *else* clause:

```
if (i > j) {
    if (i > k) {
        max = i;
    } else {
        max = k;
    }
} else {
    if (j > k) {
        max = j;
    } else {
        max = k;
    }
}
```