# Why won't oracle sql developer recognise my if statement

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I am using oracle SQL developer and am trying to run a query with an if statement in it.

I have defined a variable and assigned a value to it.

```
define
var buyer varchar2(1)

/* define variable values */
exec :buyer := 'Yep'

if :buyer = 'Yep' then
begin
dbms_output.put_line('Yep');
else
dbms_output.put_line('Nope');
end;
```

However, when I run the script, I get an error message stating that IF is an unknown command.

Error starting at line : 8 in command -
if :buyer = 'Yep' then
Error report -
Unknown Command

Any advice is greatly appreciated.

sql    oracle    if-statement

asked Dec 4 '14 at 15:43

Squirmster
**8**   6

1    Because you can't use `if` outside of a PL/SQL block. –
a_horse_with_no_name Dec 4 '14 at 15:46

## 2 Answers

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You have to define a DECLARE-BEGIN-END block to run IF-ELSIF-ELSE-END conditions. Based on your sample code, I'm assuming this is what you would like to do.

```
DECLARE
  buyer VARCHAR2(3) := 'Yep';
BEGIN
  IF ( buyer = 'Yep' ) THEN
    dbms_output.put_line('Yep' );
  ELSE
    dbms_output.put_line('Nope');
  END IF;
END;
/
```

You could run this as a script in sql
developer. HTH!

answered Dec 4 '14 at 16:08

Maki
**145**   10

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Look up the PLSQL Syntax:

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```
DECLARE
  variable type;
BEGIN
  IF variable = 'test'
  THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('J');
  ELSE
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('N');
  END IF;
END;
/
```

answered Dec 4 '14 at 15:54

Falco
**2,833**   16   20

Thanks for the help both. That's
cleared that up... :) —  Squirmster
Dec 4 '14 at 15:59