Scope

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
                               Global symbol "$z" requires explicit
                               package name at ./scope.pl line 19.
use strict;
use warnings;
                               Execution of ./scope.pl aborted due
                               to compilation errors.
my $x = 100;
my \$y = 20;
if ($x > $y) {
    my $z = 10;
    $x = 30;
    print "x (inside if block): $x\n";
    print "y (inside if block): $y\n";
    print "z (inside if block): $z\n";
}
print "x (outside if block): $x\n";
print "y (outside if block): $y\n";
print "z (outside if block): $z\n";
```

Blocks

That's because \$z was declared inside the if block, so it's only accessible inside that block.

Any time we see { }, we're creating a block.

Blocks are like boxes that have one way mirrors – you can see outside the box from inside, but not inside the box from the outside.

To fix that error, we need to declare \$z outside the if block.

Blocks

Variables declared inside of a block using "my" only exist inside the block – once the block is finished, they will be destroyed.

#!/usr/bin/perl

```
use strict;
                                   Output:
use warnings;
                                   $x (inside of block):30
                                   $z (inside of block):10
my $x = 100;
                                   $x (outside if block): 30
my \$y = 20;
                                   $z (outside if block): 5
my \$z = 5;
if ($x > 10) {
    my $z = 10;
    $x = 30;
    print "x (inside if block): $x\n";
    print "y (inside if block): $y\n";
    print "z (inside if block): $z\n";
}
print "x (outside if block): $x\n";
print "y (outside if block): $y\n";
print "z (outside if block): $z\n";
```

Scope

Does the program give the expected behavior?

By declaring "my \$z = 10;" inside the if block, we're creating a new variable called \$z only accessible within the block.

This new variable will not modify the outside variable!

Note that we can create a new \$z variable inside the block with no problems – if we do it outside, we'll get a warning.

Scope

• If we remove "my" from that line, the modification to \$z will show outside the block.

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
                                   Output:
                                   $x (inside if block): 30
use strict;
                                   $z (inside if block): 10
use warnings;
                                   $x (outside if block): 30
my $x = 100;
                                   $z (outside if block): 10
my $z = 5;
if ($x > 10) {
    $z = 10;
    $x = 30;
    print "x (inside if block): x\n";
    print "z (inside if block): $z\n";
}
print "x (outside if block): $x\n";
print "z (outside if block): $z\n";
```