Learn Python 3: Control Flow



if Statement

The Python if statement is used to determine the execution of code based on the evaluation of a Boolean expression.

- If the if statement expression evaluates to True, then the indented code following the statement is executed.
- If the expression evaluates to False then the indented code following the if statement is skipped and the program executes the next line of code which is indented at the same level as the if statement.

elif Statement

The Python elif statement allows for continued checks to be performed after an initial if statement. An elif statement differs from the else statement because another expression is provided to be checked, just as with the initial if statement.

If the expression is True, the indented code following the elif is executed. If the expression evaluates to False, the code can continue to an optional else statement. Multiple elif statements can be used following an initial if to perform a series of checks. Once an elif expression evaluates to True, no further elif statements are executed.

else Statement

The Python else statement provides alternate code to execute if the expression in an if statement evaluates to False.

The indented code for the <code>if</code> statement is executed if the expression evaluates to <code>True</code>. The indented code immediately following the <code>else</code> is executed only if the expression evaluates to <code>False</code>. To mark the end of the <code>else</code> block, the code must be unindented to the same level as the starting <code>if</code> line.

```
# if Statement

test_value = 100

if test_value > 1:
    # Expression evaluates to True
    print("This code is executed!")

if test_value > 1000:
    # Expression evaluates to False
    print("This code is NOT executed!")

print("Program continues at this point.")
```

```
# elif Statement

pet_type = "fish"

if pet_type == "dog":
    print("You have a dog.")
elif pet_type == "cat":
    print("You have a cat.")
elif pet_type == "fish":
    # this is performed
    print("You have a fish")
else:
    print("Not sure!")
```

```
# else Statement

test_value = 50

if test_value < 1:
    print("Value is < 1")

else:
    print("Value is >= 1")

test_string = "VALID"

if test_string == "NOT_VALID":
    print("String equals NOT_VALID")

else:
    print("String equals something else!")
```

Comparison Operators

In Python, *relational operators* compare two values or expressions. The most common ones are:

- < less than</p>
- > greater than
- | <= less than or equal to</p>
- >= greater than or equal too

If the relation is sound, then the entire expression will evaluate to True. If not, the expression evaluates to False.

```
a = 2
b = 3
a < b # evaluates to True
a > b # evaluates to False
a >= b # evaluates to False
a <= b # evaluates to True
a <= a # evaluates to True</pre>
```

Equal Operator =

The equal operator, ==, is used to compare two values, variables or expressions to determine if they are the same.

If the values being compared are the same, the operator returns True, otherwise it returns False.

The operator takes the data type into account when making the comparison, so a string value of "2" is *not* considered the same as a numeric value of 2.

```
# Equal operator

if 'Yes' == 'Yes':
    # evaluates to True
    print('They are equal')

if (2 > 1) == (5 < 10):
    # evaluates to True
    print('Both expressions give the same result')

c = '2'
    d = 2

if c == d:
    print('They are equal')
else:
    print('They are not equal')</pre>
```

Not Equals Operator !=

The Python not equals operator, != , is used to compare two values, variables or expressions to determine if they are NOT the same. If they are NOT the same, the operator returns True . If they are the same, then it returns False .

The operator takes the data type into account when making the comparison so a value of 10 would NOT be equal to the string value "10" and the operator would return True. If expressions are used, then they are evaluated to a value of True or False before the comparison is made by the operator.

```
# Not Equals Operator

if "Yes" != "No":
    # evaluates to True
    print("They are NOT equal")

val1 = 10
val2 = 20

if val1 != val2:
    print("They are NOT equal")

if (10 > 1) != (10 > 1000):
    # True != False
    print("They are NOT equal")
```

Boolean Values

Booleans are a data type in Python, much like integers, floats, and strings. However, booleans only have two values:

- True
- False

Specifically, these two values are of the **bool** type. Since booleans are a data type, creating a variable that holds a boolean value is the same as with other data types.

and Operator

The Python and operator performs a Boolean comparison between two Boolean values, variables, or expressions. If both sides of the operator evaluate to True then the and operator returns True. If either side (or both sides) evaluates to False, then the and operator returns False. A non-Boolean value (or variable that stores a value) will always evaluate to True when used with the and operator.

or Operator

The Python or operator combines two Boolean expressions and evaluates to True if at least one of the expressions returns True. Otherwise, if both expressions are False, then the entire expression evaluates to False.

not Operator

The Python Boolean not operator is used in a Boolean expression in order to evaluate the expression to its inverse value. If the original expression was True, including the not operator would make the expression False, and vice versa.

```
is_true = True
is_false = False

print(type(is_true))
# will output: <class 'bool'>
```

```
True and True # Evaluates to True
True and False # Evaluates to False
False and False # Evaluates to False
1 == 1 and 1 < 2 # Evaluates to True
1 < 2 and 3 < 1 # Evaluates to False
"Yes" and 100 # Evaluates to True
```

```
True or True # Evaluates to True
True or False # Evaluates to True
False or False # Evaluates to False
1 < 2 or 3 < 1 # Evaluates to True
3 < 1 or 1 > 6 # Evaluates to False
1 == 1 or 1 < 2 # Evaluates to True
```

```
not True  # Evaluates to False
not False  # Evaluates to True
1 > 2  # Evaluates to False
not 1 > 2  # Evaluates to True
1 == 1  # Evaluates to True
not 1 == 1  # Evaluates to False
```

Handling Exceptions in Python

A try and except block can be used to handle error in code block. Code which may raise an error can be written in the try block. During execution, if that code block raises an error, the rest of the try block will cease executing and the except code block will execute.

```
def check_leap_year(year):
    is_leap_year = False
    if year % 4 == 0:
        is_leap_year = True

try:
    check_leap_year(2018)
    print(is_leap_year)
    # The variable is_leap_year is declared inside the function
    except:
    print('Your code raised an error!')
```