

Chapter 2: Flow of Control

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Program 1: We show several expressions resulting in Boolean values. There is one grammatical error in this example.

02	11-boolean.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>x, y, z = 5, 2, 0</code>
5	<code>print("1.", x>9, y>0, z=='0')</code>
6	<code>next()</code>
7	<code>print("2.", x>9 and y>0)</code>
8	<code>next()</code>
9	<code>print("3.", x>9 or y>0)</code>
10	<code>next()</code>
11	<code>print("4.", not x>9)</code>
12	<code>next()</code>
13	<code>print("5.", x==y, x!=y, not x==y,)</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	<code>print("6.", x=5)</code>

Program 2: We are testing several string functions that return a Boolean value in this program. The last example asks for input. Try to make it false.

02	12-boolean function.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>str1 = "0123"</code>
5	<code>str2 = "Tier 1"</code>
6	<code>str3 = "UH"</code>
7	
8	<code>print("1.", str1.isdigit())</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	<code>print("2.", str1.isalpha())</code>
11	<code>next()</code>
12	<code>print("3.", str2.isupper())</code>
13	<code>next()</code>
14	<code>print("4.", str2.isalnum())</code>
15	<code>next()</code>
16	<code>print("5.", str3.isalpha())</code>
17	<code>next()</code>
18	<code>print("6.", str3.isalnum())</code>
19	<code>next()</code>
20	<code>str4 = input("Try a string here: ")</code>
21	<code>print("7.", str4.isalnum())</code>

Program 3: A number (integer or float) or a string can be cast into a Boolean type. It is easier to remember what will be cast into False because there are fewer. This program shows several examples.

02	13-cast boolean.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>print("1.", bool(1))</code>
5	<code>next()</code>
6	<code>print("2.", bool(-1))</code>
7	<code>next()</code>
8	<code>print("3.", bool(99))</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	<code>print("4.", bool(9.99))</code>
11	<code>next()</code>
12	<code>print("5.", bool("UH"))</code>
13	<code>next()</code>
14	<code>print("6.", bool("0"))</code>
15	<code>next()</code>
16	<code>print("7.", bool(" "))</code>
17	<code>next()</code>
18	<code>print("8.", bool(0))</code>
19	<code>next()</code>
20	<code>print("9.", bool(0.0))</code>
21	<code>next()</code>
22	<code>print("10.", bool(''))</code>

Program 4: This program shows comparisons can be chained. The last example is a bad case.

02	14-chained comp.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>x = 15</code>
5	<code>if (x >= 10) and (x <= 20):</code>
6	<code> print(x, "is inside 10 and 20.")</code>
7	<code>else:</code>
8	<code> print(x, "is outside 10 and 20.")</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	
11	<code>if (10 <= x <= 20):</code>
12	<code> print(x, "is inside 10 and 20.")</code>
13	<code>else:</code>
14	<code> print(x, "is outside 10 and 20.")</code>
15	<code>next()</code>
16	
17	<code>if (100 >= x > 20):</code>
18	<code> print(x, "is inside 100 and 20.")</code>
19	<code>else:</code>
20	<code> print(x, "is outside 100 and 20.")</code>
21	<code>next()</code>
22	
23	<code>if (10 >= x <= 20): # This works but BAD</code>
24	<code> print(x, "is inside 10 and 20.")</code>
25	<code>else:</code>
26	<code> print(x, "is outside 10 and 20. ???")</code>

Program 5: There is a built-in function (no need to import anything) that asks if a given value is of a given type.

02	15-isinstance.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>print("1.", isinstance(5,int))</code>
5	<code>next()</code>
6	
7	<code>print("2.", isinstance(5.0,int))</code>
8	<code>next()</code>
9	
10	<code>print("3.", isinstance('',str))</code>
11	<code>next()</code>
12	
13	<code>print("4.", isinstance('a, b, c',list))</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	
16	<code>x = '12345'</code>
17	<code>if isinstance(x, str):</code>
18	<code> print("5.", 'True', x, type(x), id(x), len(x))</code>
19	<code>else:</code>
20	<code> print("5.", 'False', x, type(x), id(x))</code>
21	<code>next()</code>
22	
23	<code>x = 12345</code>
24	<code>if isinstance(x, str):</code>
25	<code> print("6.", 'True', x, type(x), id(x), len(x))</code>
26	<code>else:</code>
27	<code> print("6.", 'False', x, type(x), id(x))</code>

Program 6: Testing the Boolean "in" operator.

02	16-boolean-in.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>print("1.", 5 in [1, 3, 5, 7, 9])</code>
5	<code>next()</code>
6	<code>print("2.", 6 in [1, 3, 5, 7, 9])</code>
7	<code>next()</code>
8	<code>print("3.", not 6 in [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]) # works</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	<code>print("4.", 6 not in [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]) # more natural</code>
11	<code>next()</code>
12	<code>print("5.", 'hell' in s)</code>
13	<code>next()</code>
14	<code>print("6.", 'he' in s)</code>
15	<code>next()</code>
16	<code>print("7.", 'ell' in s)</code>
17	<code>next()</code>
18	<code>print("8.", 'Hello' in s)</code>
19	<code>next()</code>
20	<code>print("9.", 'low' in s)</code>

Program 7: Testing the Boolean "is" operator. The last example is tricky.

02	17-is.py
1	<code># Identity operator</code>
2	<code>def next():</code>
3	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
4	
5	<code>s = "hello"</code>
6	<code>t = s</code>
7	<code>print ("1.", t is s)</code>
8	<code>print(f"t id={id(t)}, s id={id(s)}")</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	
11	<code>t = 'or'</code>
12	<code>print ("2.", t is s)</code>
13	<code>print(f"t id={id(t)}, s id={id(s)}")</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	
16	<code>s = [1, 2, 3]</code>
17	<code>t = [1, 2, 3]</code>
18	<code>print ("3.", t is s)</code>
19	<code>print(f"t id={id(t)}, s id={id(s)}")</code>
20	<code>next()</code>
21	
22	<code>s = t = [5, 6, 7]</code>
23	<code>print ("4.", t is s)</code>
24	<code>print(f"t id={id(t)}, s id={id(s)}")</code>

Program 8:

02	21-if.py
1	<code># Keywords: if-only, block structure</code>
2	<code>def next():</code>
3	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
4	
5	<code>x, y = 3, 5</code>
6	<code>if y**2 > 10:</code>
7	<code> print("1. Yes!")</code>
8	<code>print("That's it.")</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	
11	<code>if x**2 > 10:</code>
12	<code> print("2. Yes!")</code>
13	<code>print("That's it.")</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	
16	<code>if y**2 > 10:</code>
17	<code> print("3. One!")</code>
18	<code> print("3. Two!")</code>
19	<code> print("3. Three!")</code>
20	<code>else:</code>
21	<code> print("3. Four!")</code>
22	<code> print("3. Five!")</code>
23	<code> print("3. Six!")</code>
24	<code>print("That's it.")</code>

Program 9: Testing if-else.

02	22-if else.py
1	<code># Keywords: if-else</code>
2	<code>def next():</code>
3	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
4	
5	<code>x, y = 3, 5</code>
6	<code>if y**2>10:</code>
7	<code> print("\tYes!")</code>
8	<code> print("\tYes!")</code>
9	<code> print("\tYes!")</code>
10	<code>else:</code>
11	<code> print("\tNo!")</code>
12	<code> print("\tNo!")</code>
13	<code>print("Back together.")</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	
16	<code>if x**2>10:</code>
17	<code> print("\tYes!")</code>
18	<code>else:</code>
19	<code> print("\tNo!")</code>
20	<code> print("\tNo!")</code>
21	<code>print("Back together.")</code>

Program 10: This program shows how to use the else-if. Remove the #-sign in the last two lines and see what happens.

02	23-else-if.py
1	def next():
2	input("Next> ")
3	
4	x = -9
5	<i># without using elif</i>
6	if x == 1:
7	print("\tOne")
8	else:
9	if x < 0:
10	print("\tTwo")
11	next()
12	
13	<i># With elif</i>
14	if x == 1:
15	print("\tOne")
16	elif x < 0:
17	print("\tTwo")
18	next()
19	
20	<i># Wrong way to use else if</i>
21	if x == 1:
22	print("\tOne")
23	<i>#else if x < 0:</i>
24	<i># print("\tTwo")</i>

Program 11: Nested if-else.

02	24-nested-if-else.py
1	num = int(input("Enter a number: "))
2	
3	if num < 20:
4	print("\t<20")
5	if num < 10:
6	print("\t\t<10")
7	else:
8	print("\t\t>=10")
9	else:
10	print("\t>=20")
11	if num < 30:
12	print("\t\t<30")
13	else:
14	print("\t\t>=30")

Program 12: A better way for testing for multiple cases.

02	25-elif.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>day = int(input("Enter a number 1-7: "))</code>
5	<code>if day==1:</code>
6	<code> print("Monday")</code>
7	<code>else:</code>
8	<code> if day==2:</code>
9	<code> print("Tuesday")</code>
10	<code> else:</code>
11	<code> if day==3:</code>
12	<code> print("Wednesday")</code>
13	<code> else:</code>
14	<code> if day == 4:</code>
15	<code> print("Thursday")</code>
16	<code> else:</code>
17	<code> if day == 5:</code>
18	<code> print("Friday")</code>
19	<code> else:</code>
20	<code> if day == 6:</code>
21	<code> print("Saturday")</code>
22	<code> else:</code>
23	<code> if day == 7:</code>
24	<code> print("Sunday")</code>
25	<code> else:</code>
26	<code> print("Invalid")</code>
27	<code>next()</code>
28	
29	<code># Symmetric, easier to understand</code>
30	<code>if day==1:</code>
31	<code> print("Monday")</code>
32	<code>elif day==2:</code>
33	<code> print("Tuesday")</code>
34	<code>elif day==3:</code>
35	<code> print("Wednesday")</code>
36	<code>elif day==4:</code>
37	<code> print("Thursday")</code>
38	<code>elif day==5:</code>
39	<code> print("Friday")</code>
40	<code>elif day==6:</code>
41	<code> print("Saturday")</code>
42	<code>elif day==7:</code>
43	<code> print("Sunday")</code>
44	<code>else:</code>
45	<code> print("Invalid")</code>

Program 13: The following is the first example of an unbalanced nested if-else structure. The two cases are different. The rule is to match the "else" with the "if" based on indentation.

02	26-nested-if.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>a, b, c = 10, 20, 30</code>
5	<code>if (a<b):</code>
6	<code> if (c<b):</code>
7	<code> print("b is the max")</code>
8	<code> else:</code>
9	<code> print("b is the median")</code>
10	<code># no outer-else</code>
11	<code>print("That's it")</code>
12	<code>next()</code>
13	
14	<code>if (a<b):</code>
15	<code> if (c<b):</code>
16	<code> print("b is the max")</code>
17	<code> # No inner-else</code>
18	<code>else:</code>
19	<code> print("not sure")</code>
20	<code>print("That's it")</code>

Program 14: Sometimes, it is easier to understand code with logical expression than if-else. In the example, we already have a Boolean value; why test it again?

02	27-test-vs-eval.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code>input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>test = bool(input("Enter a string:"))</code>
5	<code>print(test)</code>
6	<code>next()</code>
7	
8	<code>if (test != True):</code>
9	<code>result = True</code>
10	<code>else:</code>
11	<code>result = False</code>
12	<code>print(result)</code>
13	<code>next()</code>
14	
15	<i># Here is an easier way</i>
16	<code>result = not test</code>
17	<code>print(result)</code>
18	<code>next()</code>
19	
20	<i># Even shorter, without using another variable</i>
21	<code>print(not test)</code>

Program 15: In Case 1, the computer evaluated both expressions connected by an AND. Case 2 evaluates only the first one. If the second expression is evaluated, it will cause a "division by zero" error. Case 3 will cause the program to abort because it evaluates both expressions. There is no syntax error. The error is probably our first execution error.

02	31-short circuit.py
1	def next():
2	input("Next> ")
3	
4	x, y = 6, 2
5	if x>=2 and x/y>2: # True and True
6	print("1. True", end="\n")
7	else:
8	print("1. False", end="\n")
9	next()
10	
11	x, y = 1, 0
12	if x>=2 and x/y>2: # False and ??? (Not executed)
13	print("2. True", end="\n")
14	else:
15	print("2. False", end="\n")
16	next()
17	
18	x, y = 6, 0
19	if x>=2 and x/y>2: # True and Error (Executed)
20	print("3. True", end="\n")
21	else:
22	print("3. False", end="\n")

Program 16: This example shows short circuits can happen to OR-ed expressions. In addition, it also demonstrates the side effect of evaluating an expression. Note that the function definition may be far from the if statement. Be mindful of the short circuits.

02	32-side effect.py
1	def test(n):
2	print("*** Whatever ***")
3	return bool(n%2)
4	
5	x = int(input("Enter an int: ")) # Try 20, 5
6	if x >= 10 or test(x):
7	print("Test: True")
8	else:
9	print("Test: False")

Program 17: Computation vs. Comparison. The second case is much better than the first one. Case 3 is better if there is no need to remember the result.

02	33-simplify.py
1	<code>x, y = 10, 20</code>
2	<code>if x**2 > y:</code>
3	<code> result = True</code>
4	<code>else:</code>
5	<code> result = False</code>
6	<code>print('1.', result)</code>
7	
8	<code>result = x**2 > y</code>
9	<code>print('2.', result)</code>
10	
11	<code>print('3.', x**2 > y)</code>

Program 18: Even though it is possible to squeeze multiple statements into one line, it is NOT recommended. Note that no "separator" is used in Case one, while Cases 2 and 3 use the separators.

02	41-if block.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input('next> ')</code>
3	
4	<code>status = int(input("Enter a number: "))</code>
5	<code>if status==1:</code>
6	<code> print("1. Hello")</code>
7	<code> print("world")</code>
8	<code> print("!")</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	
11	<code># Yes, you can do it this way, BUT it is BAD</code>
12	<code>if status==1:</code>
13	<code> print("2. Hello"); print("world"); print("!")</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	
16	<code># Even this</code>
17	<code>if status==1: print("3. Hello"); print("world"); print("!")</code>

Program 19: Case one put the final print outside the if-elif, while Case 2 put it inside the if-elif. We are using "tab" to show the difference.

02	43-nested elif.py
1	<code># Try 1, 2, 3, 4</code>
2	<code>def next():</code>
3	<code> input('Next> ')</code>
4	
5	<code>status = int(input("Enter a number: "))</code>
6	<code>if status==1:</code>
7	<code> print("\t1. One")</code>
8	<code>elif status==2:</code>
9	<code> print("\t1. Two")</code>
10	<code>elif status==3: # no else</code>
11	<code> print("\t1. Three")</code>
12	<code>print("1. That's all.")</code>
13	<code>next()</code>
14	
15	<code>if status==1:</code>
16	<code> print("\t2. One")</code>
17	<code>elif status==2:</code>
18	<code> print("\t2. Two")</code>
19	<code>elif status==3: # else?</code>
20	<code> print("\t2. Three")</code>
21	<code>else:</code>
22	<code> print("\t2. That's all.")</code>

Program 20: This program shows a 3-way if-else structure. The three cases here happen to be mutually exclusive. Not all such structures are mutually exclusive. Continue to the following example.

02	51-elif.py
1	<code>x = int(input("Please enter an integer: "))</code>
2	<code>if x<0:</code>
3	<code> print(f'{x} is negative')</code>
4	<code>elif x==0:</code>
5	<code> print(f'{x} is zero')</code>
6	<code>else:</code>
7	<code> print(f'{x} is positive')</code>
8	<code>print('Job done.')</code>

Program 21: The two cases are equivalent because they are mutually exclusive. What happens if it is not? Give an example.

02	52-elif.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input('next> ')</code>
3	
4	<code>num1 = int(input("Enter the first number: "))</code>
5	<code>num2 = int(input("Enter the second number: "))</code>
6	<code>next()</code>
7	<code># Case 1</code>
8	<code>if num1 < num2:</code>
9	<code> print(num1, "is smaller.")</code>
10	<code>elif num1 > num2:</code>
11	<code> print(num2, "is smaller.")</code>
12	<code>else:</code>
13	<code> print("The two numbers are equal.")</code>
14	<code>next()</code>
15	<code># Case 2</code>
16	<code>if num1 < num2:</code>
17	<code> print(num1, "is smaller.")</code>
18	<code>if num1 > num2:</code>
19	<code> print(num2, "is smaller.")</code>
20	<code>if num1 == num2:</code>
21	<code> print("The two numbers are equal.")</code>

Program 22: This program is for comparison with the following program.

02	60-if else.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input('next> ')</code>
3	
4	<code>age = eval(input("Enter your age: "))</code>
5	<code>if age < 18:</code>
6	<code> if age < 12:</code>
7	<code> print("Kid")</code>
8	<code> else:</code>
9	<code> print("Teeager")</code>
10	<code>else:</code>
11	<code> print("Adult")</code>
12	<code>next()</code>
13	
14	<code># A better arrangement; simplicity</code>
15	<code>if age < 12:</code>
16	<code> print("Kid")</code>
17	<code>elif age < 18:</code>
18	<code> print("Teeager")</code>
19	<code>elif age < 65:</code>
20	<code> print("Adult")</code>
21	<code>else: # Over 65</code>
22	<code> print("Senior")</code>

Program 23: Using conditional expression.

02	61-cond exp.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code> input('next> ')</code>
3	
4	<code>age = eval(input("Enter your age: "))</code>
5	<code>print("kid" if age<12 else</code>
6	<code> "teenager" if age<18 else</code>
7	<code> "adult" if age<65 else</code>
8	<code> "senior")</code>
9	<code>next()</code>
10	
11	<code>status = ("kid" if age<12 else</code>
12	<code> "adult" if age<18 else</code>
13	<code> "adult" if age<65 else</code>
14	<code> "senior")</code>
15	<code>print(status)</code>

Program 24: Using the conditional expression for numerical computation.

02	62-cond exp.py
1	num = eval(input("enter a number: "))
2	abs = num if num>=0 else -num
3	print ("The absolute value of", num, "is", abs)

Program 25: Conditional expression is shorter and better than if-else.

02	63-cond exp.py
1	def next():
2	input('next> ')
3	
4	x = int(input("Enter an integer number: "))
5	
6	if x == 1:
7	s = 'a'
8	elif x == 2:
9	s = 'b'
10	elif x == 3:
11	s = 'c'
12	else:
13	s = 'd'
14	print(s)
15	next()
16	
17	s = ('a' if x == 1 else
18	'b' if x == 2 else
19	'c' if x == 3 else
20	'd'
21)
22	print(s)
23	next()
24	
25	<i># Shorter, symmetric, and simpler</i>
26	print('a' if x == 1 else
27	'b' if x == 2 else
28	'c' if x == 3 else
29	'd'
30)

Program 26: One more example of simplification.

02	64-cond exp.py
1	<code>def next():</code>
2	<code>input("Next> ")</code>
3	
4	<code>food = input("What is your favorite food? ")</code>
5	
6	<code>if food == "lamb":</code>
7	<code>reply = "Yuck"</code>
8	<code>else:</code>
9	<code>reply = "Yum"</code>
10	<code>print(food, reply)</code>
11	<code>next()</code>
12	
13	<code>reply = "Yuck" if food=="lamb" else "Yum"</code>
14	<code>print(food, reply)</code>
15	<code>next()</code>
16	
17	<code>print(food, "Yuck" if food=="lamb" else "Yum")</code>