

Perl Conditionals

How to use if, else, and unless

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We touched on the `if` () condition in the last section, and here we are going to see how it works, along with adding `else`, `elsif`, and using the `unless` () condition.

The if Condition

The `if` condition lets you check to see if a statement is true using a comparison operator. If the statement is true, it executes a block of code between two curly braces `{ }`. Otherwise, it will go on to the next command after the braces. Here is a sample `if` statement:

```
$gas_money=5;

if ($gas_money < 10)
{
    print "You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!";
}

print "Gas is expensive.";
```

This checks to see if the variable `$gas_money` is less than 10. If this is true, it executes the statement inside the braces, and then goes on. If not, it will go straight to the `print` statement after the braces. So, with `$gas_money` being 5, it prints this result:

```
You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!
Gas is expensive.
```

If the `$gas_money` variable were equal to 20, it would skip the code inside the braces and just print the last line:

```
Gas is expensive.
```

Using else and elsif

You can also make the script do something if the "if" condition is not true. If you have just one other option, simply use `else` statement after the `if` statement, like this:

```
if ($gas_money < 10)
{
    print "You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!";
}
else
```

```

{
    print "You have enough money for now.";
}

print "Gas is expensive.";

```

Now, if `$gas_money` is less than 10, the program gives you:

```

You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!
Gas is expensive.

```

However, if `$gas_money` is anything greater than 10, it will bypass the statement in the first set of braces and execute the code within the else statement braces. It would print this:

```

You have enough money for now.
Gas is expensive.

```

If you want to check for a couple of conditions, you can use `elsif` to do another check and leave the else code as a last resort. You can have as many `elsif` statements as you want, but keep them between the `if` and the else statements. Here is a sample:

```

if (($gas_money < 10) && ($gas_money > 0))
{
    print "You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!";
}
elsif ($gas_money <= 0)
{
    print "You need to get some money!";
}
else
{
    print "You have enough money for now.";
}

print "Gas is expensive.";

```

You'll notice the `&&` operator here, it checks to see that two conditions are true before it will return true. So, for the first bit of code to execute, `$gas_money` has to be between 1 and 9. Also, note the extra parentheses, they separate the condition from the comparisons within it.

Now, if `$gas_money` is between 1 and 9, you get:

```

You will not get much gas for less than 10 bucks!
Gas is expensive.

```

However, if `$gas_money` is zero or less, you get:

```

You need to get some money!
Gas is expensive.

```

Finally, if `$gas_money` is 10 or more you get:

```

You have enough money for now.
Gas is expensive.

```

You could check for several ranges here and get smart with the people using the program. Just

keep using the elsif statement to check for more ranges.

Using unless

The unless condition checks for a certain condition and executes it every time unless the condition is true. Sort of like the opposite of the if statement:

```
unless ($gas_money == 10)
{
    print "You need exact change. 10 bucks please.";
}
```

This shows the message every time unless \$gas_money is actually equal to 10. It's a handy shortcut for a longer if/else statement.

Well, that's it for now. Let's go on to: [Using Loops](#).

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