

Sometimes, you might find yourself with the following type of conditional.

```
var isGoing = true;
var color;

if (isGoing) {
  color = "green";
} else {
  color = "red";
}

console.log(color);
```

**Prints:** "green"

In this example, the variable `color` is being assigned to either `"green"` or `"red"` based on the value of `isGoing`. This code works, but it's a rather lengthy way for assigning a value to a variable. Thankfully, in JavaScript there's another way.

**TIP:** Using `if(isGoing)` is the same as using `if(isGoing === true)`. Alternatively, using `if(!isGoing)` is the same as using `if(isGoing === false)`.

### Ternary operator

The **ternary operator** provides you with a shortcut alternative for writing lengthy if...else statements.

```
conditional ? (if condition is true) : (if condition is false)
```

To use the ternary operator, first provide a conditional statement on the left-side of the `?`. Then, between the `?` and `:` write the code that would run if the condition is `true` and on the right-hand side of the `:` write the code that would run if the condition is `false`. For example, you can rewrite the example code above as:

```
var isGoing = true;
var color = isGoing ? "green" : "red";
console.log(color);
```

**Prints:** "green"

This code not only replaces the conditional, but it also handles the variable assignment for `color`.

If you breakdown the code, the condition `isGoing` is placed on the left side of the `?`. Then, the first expression, after the `?`, is what will be run if the condition is `true` and the second expression after the `:`, is what will be run if the condition is `false`.



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Lesson 3:  
Conditionals

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Get support and stay on track

Ternary Operator

QUIZ QUESTION

What will be printed to the console if the following code is run?

```
var adult = true;
var preorder = true;

console.log("It costs $" + (adult ? "40.00" : "20.00") + " to attend the concert. Pick up your tickets at the " + (preorder ? "will call" : "the gate") + ".");
```

☐ It costs \$20.00 to attend the concert. Pick up your tickets at the gate.

☐ It costs \$20.00 to attend the concert. Pick up your tickets at the will call.

☐ It costs \$40.00 to attend the concert. Pick up your tickets at the gate.

☒ It costs \$40.00 to attend the concert. Pick up your tickets at the will call.

SUBMIT

NEXT