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Lesson 3:
Conditionals

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If...Else Statements

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If...else statements

If...else statements allow you to execute certain pieces of code based on a condition, or set of conditions, being met.

```
if (/* this expression is true */) {  
  // run this code  
} else {  
  // run this code  
}
```

This is extremely helpful because it allows you to choose which piece of code you want to run based on the result of an expression. For example,

```
var a = 1;  
var b = 2;  
  
if (a > b) {  
  console.log("a is greater than b");  
} else {  
  console.log("a is less than or equal to b");  
}
```

Prints: "a is less than or equal to b"

A couple of important things to notice about **if...else** statements.

The value inside the **if** statement is always *converted* to true or false. Depending on the value, the code inside the **if** statement is run or the code inside the **else** statement is run, but not both. The code inside the **if** and **else** statements are surrounded by **curly braces {...}** to separate the conditions and indicate which code should be run.

TIP: When coding, sometimes you may *only* want to use an **if** statement. However, if you try to use only an **else** statement, then you will receive the error **SyntaxError: Unexpected token else**. You'll see this error because **else** statements need an **if** statement in order to work. You can't have an **else** statement without first having an **if** statement.

Mentorship

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