

Using the IF Statement

Adding Choice

Almost every program we write will want offer the *end-user* (the person using the program) some kind of choice; examples of which include: “Do you wish to continue?”, “Do you want to print a receipt?”, “Do you want to do this transaction in Euro or Dollars?”, “Do you agree to the Terms and Conditions?”. It is really important to give the end-users a choice because we want to give them as much control as possible to allow our programs to work for them, instead of having them try to conform to the programs. As discussed before programming is a political act, and by giving the end-users a choice you are helping give them some control over the systems that can have a very significant impact on many aspects of their lives.

In Python, one way to give the end-users a choice is to use the IF statement, which has two possible paths, and you pick one path or the other, based on some condition. So, for example:

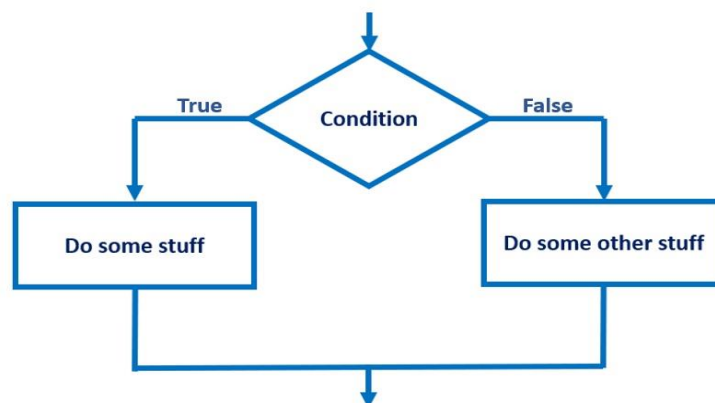
```
if (today is Saturday or Sunday):  
    then it's the weekend, so chill out,  
else:  
    it's a workday, so go to work or college.
```

The IF Statement

```
if (condition) :  
    then do some stuff  
else :  
    do some other stuff
```

Or as a picture, we can show the IF Statement like this:

The IF Statement as a Flow Chart



The diagram above is called a *Flow Chart*.