

Common Issues using IF

The Condition

Two common errors that occur when people start to use the `if` statement in Python for the first time is that they either forget to add the colon (`:`) at the end of the statement or they capitalise the “i” in “if”.

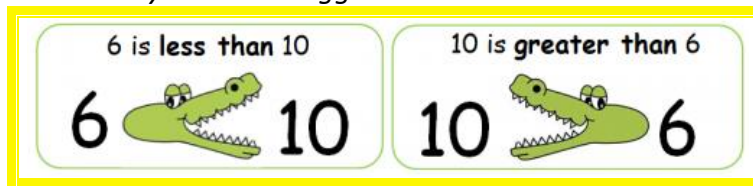
WRONG CODE	REASON
<code>if (x > y)</code>	Missing the colon (<code>:</code>) at the end
<code>If (x > y):</code>	Capitalised the “i” in “if”

So, in practice, the `if` statement should look as follows:

```
if (x > y):
```

Greater Than or Less Than

Sometimes people mix up “less than” and “greater than”; if that happens, this might help “*the crocodile always eats the bigger number*”:



Other Issues

If we declare a variable as lowercase (“x”) initially, then the computer won’t recognise it if you change it to uppercase (“X”). Also, another issue is around indentation, make sure the “else:” statement is aligned with the “if”.

WRONG CODE	REASON
<pre>x = int(input()) y = int(input()) if (X > y):</pre>	“x” needs to be the same case: <pre>x = int(input()) y = int(input()) if (x > y):</pre>
<pre>if (x > y): print("X is bigger") else: print("Y is bigger") # EndIf;</pre>	No need to indent the “else”: <pre>if (x > y): print("X is bigger") else: print("Y is bigger") # EndIf;</pre>

Reflections

It takes a bit of practice to get used of the precision required for programming, so don’t get discouraged by making small errors at the start of your journey; you are learning a key skill, and it’s worth taking the time, and being patient along the way.