

Chapter 13

What If C==C?

In This Chapter

- ▶ Comparing characters with `if`
 - ▶ Understanding standard input
 - ▶ Fixing the flaws of `getchar()`
 - ▶ Making a yes-or-no decision
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Apologies are in order for the preceding chapter. Yes, I definitely drift into Number Land while introducing the virtues of the `if` command. Computer programs aren't all about numbers, and the judgment that the `if` keyword makes isn't limited to comparing dollar amounts, ecliptic orbits, subatomic particle masses, or calories in various fudgy cookie snacks. No, you can also compare letters of the alphabet in an `if` statement. That should finally answer the mystery of whether the *T* is “greater than” the *S* and why the dollar sign is less than the minus sign. This chapter explains the details.

The World of if without Values

I ask you: How can one compare two letters of the alphabet? Truly, this subject is right up there with “How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?” and “Would it be a traditional dance, gavotte, rock, or perhaps heavenly hokey-pokey?”

Yet, comparing letters is a necessary task. If you write a menu program, you have to see whether the user selects option A, B, or C. That's done by using the handy `if` keyword. For example:

```
if(key=='A')
```