



`if` is followed by a set of parentheses in which a *comparison* is made. The comparison is mathematical in nature, using the symbols shown in Table 12-1. What’s being compared is usually the value of a variable against a constant value, or two variables against each other. (See Table 12-1 for examples.)

If the result of the comparison is true, the *statement* (or group of statements) between the curly braces is executed. If the result is false, the stuff in the curly braces is conveniently skipped over — ignored like a geeky young lad at his first high school dance and with a zit the size of Houston on his chin.

Yes, the curly braces that follow `if` can contain more than one statement. And, each of the statements ends with a semicolon. All are enclosed in the curly braces. It’s technically referred to as a *code block*. It shows you which statements “belong” to `if`. The whole darn thing is part of the `if` statement.

<b>Table 12-1 Operators Used in <code>if</code> Comparisons</b>		
<i>Comparison</i>	<i>Meaning or Pronunciation</i>	<i>“True” Examples</i>
<	Less than	1 < 5
		8 < 9
==	Equal to	5 == 5
		0 == 0

(continued)