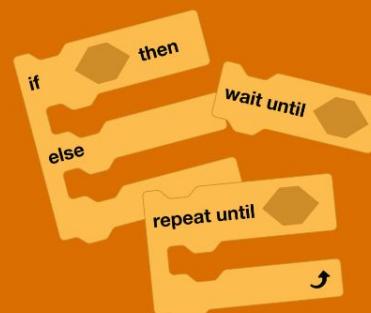


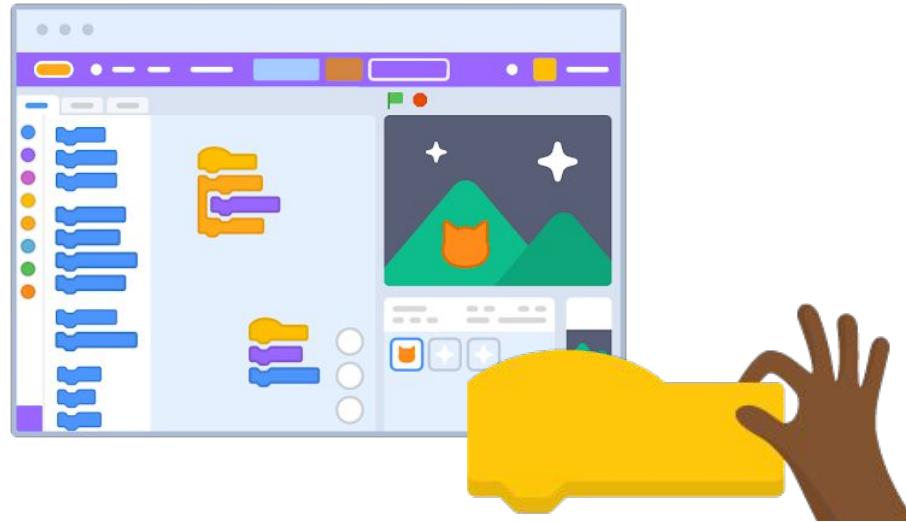
LEVEL UP WITH SCRATCH WORKSHOP SERIES

Create Dynamic Scratch Projects with the Power of Conditional Statements



Session Overview

- Brief Introduction to Creative Learning with Scratch
- Static vs Dynamic
- Conditional Statements
- A-MAZE-ing Conditions
- Compare, Contrast
- Create a Math Game
- Use Operators
- Level Up the Math Game
- Conditional Storytelling
- The Unexpected
- Nesting Statements
- Sequence Matters
- Get Help Setting Your Condition
- Your Face as the Controller
- Wrap Up - Debugging and Reflection



Facilitator: Maren Vernon

Scratch Learning Resource Designer
[@algorithmar](#) and [@scratchlycaterton](#)

SCRATCH™
FOUNDATION

Learning Goals

- Identify good use-cases for conditional statements in Scratch projects
- Hypothesize, experiment, and observe the differences between conditional statement blocks
- Debug unexpected user behavior and sequence order
- Remix our starter projects and personalize
- Reflect on finalized projects and the creative process with peers
- Communicate and share projects with your learning community and the greater Scratch online community



Getting Started

Click “Create” or log in to your free account to save projects.

go to: scratch.mit.edu

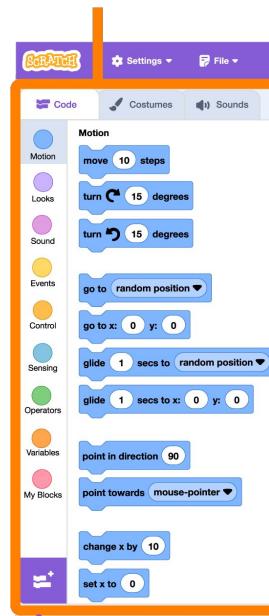
Set your language and block color mode.

Choose a sprite. Drag and drop code blocks to create a script.

scratchfoundation.org/learn/learning-library/getting-started

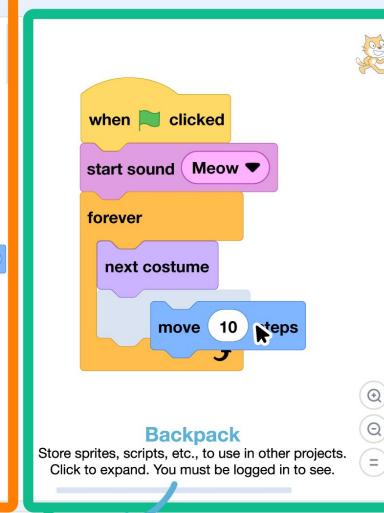
Block Palette

Blocks for coding your projects.



Coding Area/Script Area

Drag in blocks and snap them together.



Backpack
Store sprites, scripts, etc., to use in other projects. Click to expand. You must be logged in to see.

The Stage

Where your creations come to life.



Sprite Area

Click the thumbnail of a sprite to select it.

Creative Learning

As facilitators, we want to support **playful learning and tinkering mindset values** so that participants can:

- Engage playfully in **projects** that are meaningful to them and elicit joy
- Collaborate with **peers** to experiment, share, and celebrate ideas
- Develop a mindset that is **comfortable with the discomfort** of getting stuck
- Develop a mindset that thinks critically about **strategies for getting unstuck**

scratchfoundation.org/learn/learning-library/scratch-creative-learning-philosophy



The card features a purple header with the title 'Scratch's Creative Learning Philosophy' and five icons: a lightbulb, a notepad, a flag, a paper airplane, and a spiral. The main text area is light blue with the title and a summary. A 'Learn More' button is at the bottom.

Scratch's Creative Learning Philosophy

Scratch pioneered block-based programming, enabling young...

Learn More

Let's Imagine...

What will you create?



The image shows a Scratch programming interface. At the top, there are yellow blocks for 'if then', 'else', 'repeat until', and 'wait until'. Below them, the title 'Conditional Statements' is displayed in large, dark blue text. To the right of the title, there is a purple speech bubble containing the text 'Conditional Statement'. Below the title, there is a question: 'Have you ever wanted to create a Scratch program that is...'. To the right of the question, there is a Scratch script for a green jellyfish costume. The script starts with an 'if' block. Inside the 'if' block, there is an 'ask' block followed by a 'and wait' block. Below the 'ask' block, there is a 'switch costume to' block with the costume 'Happy Green Jelly' selected. After the 'if' block, there is an 'else' block, which also contains a 'switch costume to' block with the costume 'Sad Red Jelly' selected. To the right of the Scratch interface, there is a cartoon illustration of a clownfish swimming next to a green and a red jellyfish.

Conditional Statement

Have you ever wanted to create a Scratch program that is...

if answer = 4 then

ask 2 + 2 = and wait

switch costume to Happy Green Jelly

else

switch costume to Sad Red Jelly

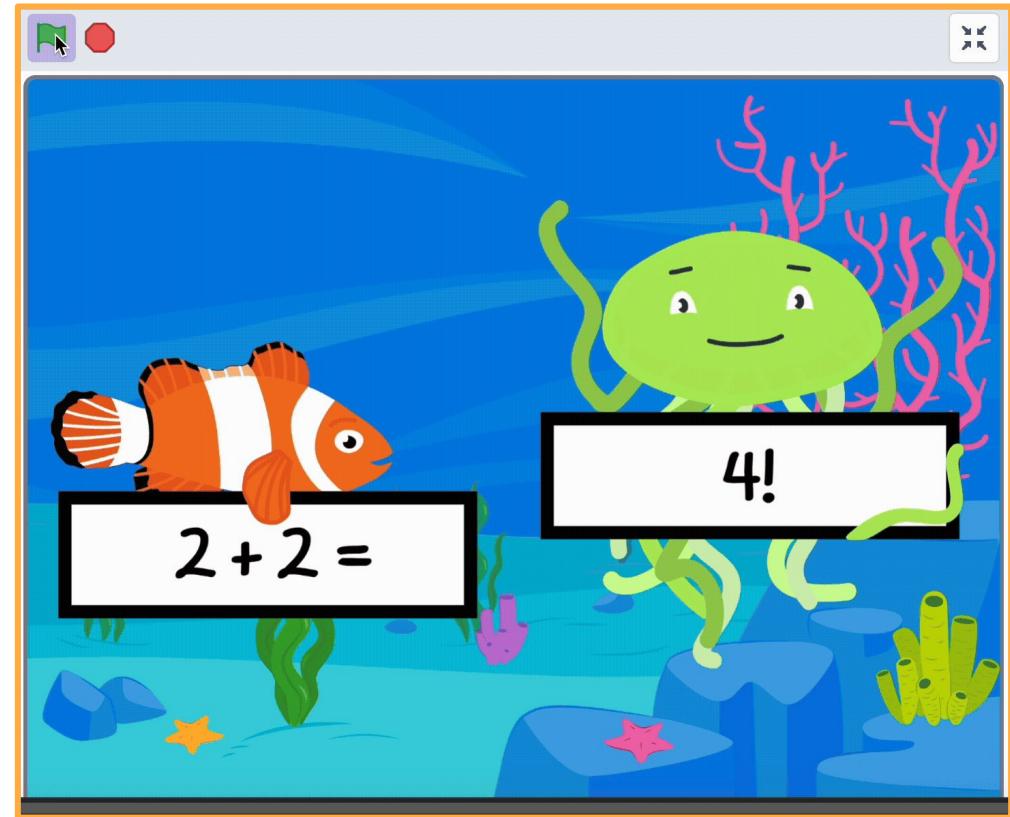
Learn More

Static vs Dynamic

Some Scratch programs are **static**: the outcome is fixed and the same thing happens each time.

Some are **dynamic**: they are capable of action or change each time they are run.

In order to create dynamic programs, the programmer can use conditional statement blocks to give instructions on how the project should respond in different circumstances.

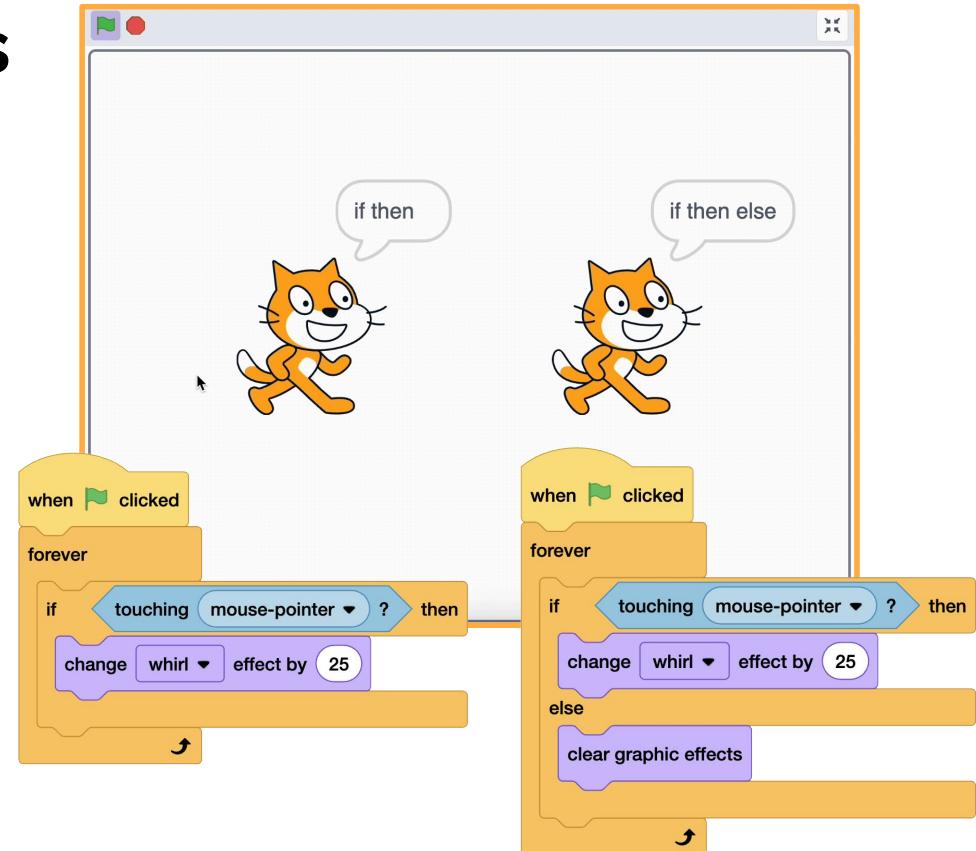


Conditional Statements

Many students first encounter the **computational concept of conditionals** in the context of a game (like a chase game or a pong game), when they want to adjust an outcome based on if sprites are touching or if a sprite is clicked or touched with a mouse, etc.

Conditional blocks can be found in the Control blocks category.

A conditional statement can be **true or false**.



Example projects: [1010683073](#) and [818527419](#)

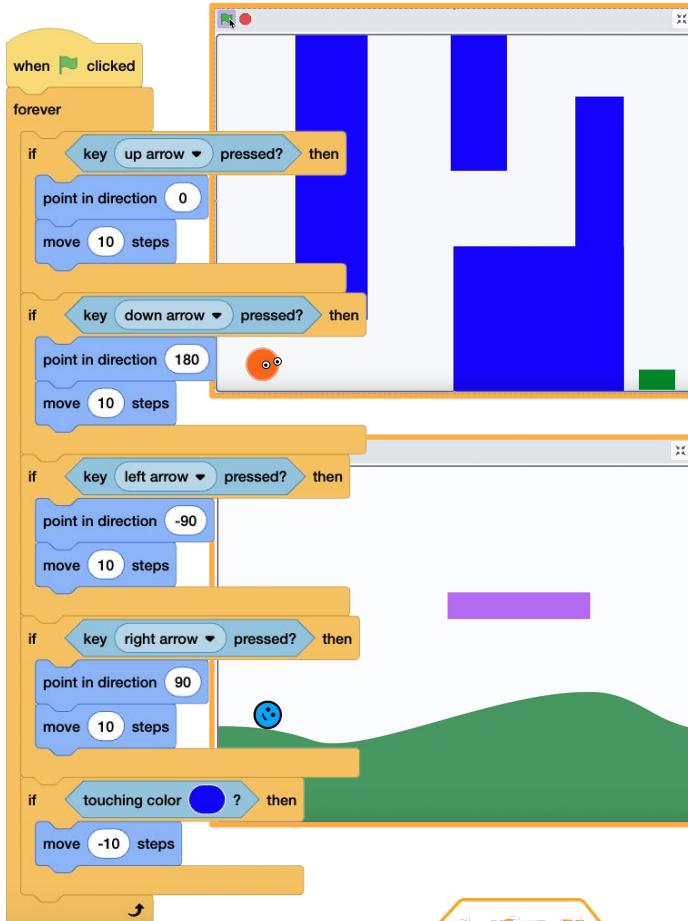
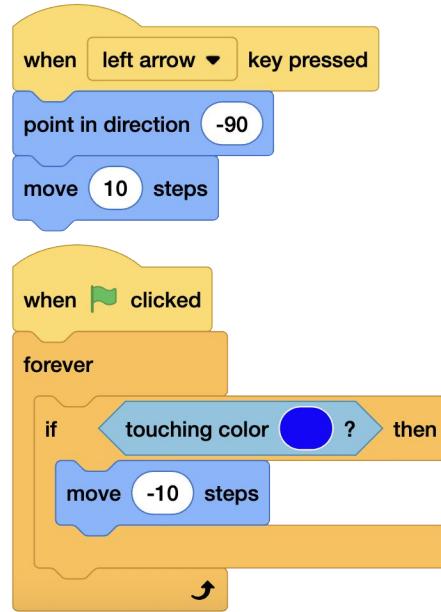
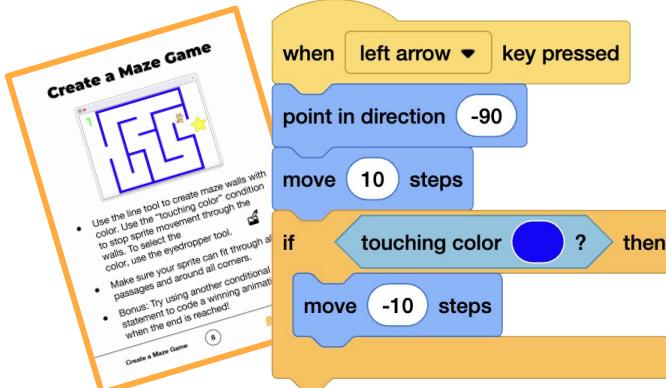
More on [Pong](#) and [Chase Games](#)

Starter Project

A-MAZE-ing Conditions

See our “Maze Starter” project and our coding cards. There is often more than one way to arrive at a solution. Debug, iterate, celebrate variety!

Platform example: 1215320440



Compare, Contrast

See our student-facing coding cards on Conditional Statements for a few example experiments with “wait until” versus “repeat until (something) is true or false,” and “if (something) is true or false then” versus “if then else.”

Often more than one solution to get a similar result. Other times, using one block over another can produce wildly different results.

Start hands off: What is your hypothesis of what will happen?
Experiment! What did you observe?

Conditional Statements: “Until”

scratch.mit.edu

Experiment with “until (something) is true or false” conditional statement blocks. What is the difference between these scripts below?

WAIT UNTIL

wait until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
play sound [Meow v] until done

REPEAT UNTIL

repeat until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
play sound [Meow v] until done

Try different conditions and customize the results. What is the difference if the condition block is inside a forever loop?

Conditional Statements: “If Then”

scratch.mit.edu

Experiment with “if (something) is true or false then” conditional statement blocks. What is the difference between these scripts below?

IF THEN

forever
if [touching [mouse-pointer] ?] then
change [whir v] effect by [25]
end

IF THEN ELSE

forever
if [touching [mouse-pointer] ?] then
change [whir v] effect by [25]
else
clear graphic effects
end

Different conditions and customize the results. What is the difference if the condition block is not in a forever loop?

Student Code, Similar Results

COMPARE CODE

first code stack
the right is the code tried on the “Game: Code fish” card.

Compare it to the right code stack which uses an “if else” statement and a “wait” conditional statement. What is the same and what is different?

each code stack, a fish touches a pufferfish and moves it away
why, what do you think is happening?

Experiment and optimize! What condition works best for your game?

when [P v] clicked
forever
switch costume to [fish v]
wait until [touching [Pufferfish] ?]
switch costume to [fish-souch v]
say [Ouch!] for [1] seconds

when [P v] clicked
forever
if [touching [Pufferfish] ?] then
switch costume to [fish-souch v]
think [Ouch!]
else
switch costume to [fish v]
think []

repeat until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
turn [cw] (15) degrees

wait until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
turn [cw] (15) degrees

if [touching [mouse-pointer] ?] then
turn [cw] (15) degrees

forever
repeat until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
turn [cw] (15) degrees

forever
wait until [touching [mouse-pointer] ?]
turn [cw] (15) degrees

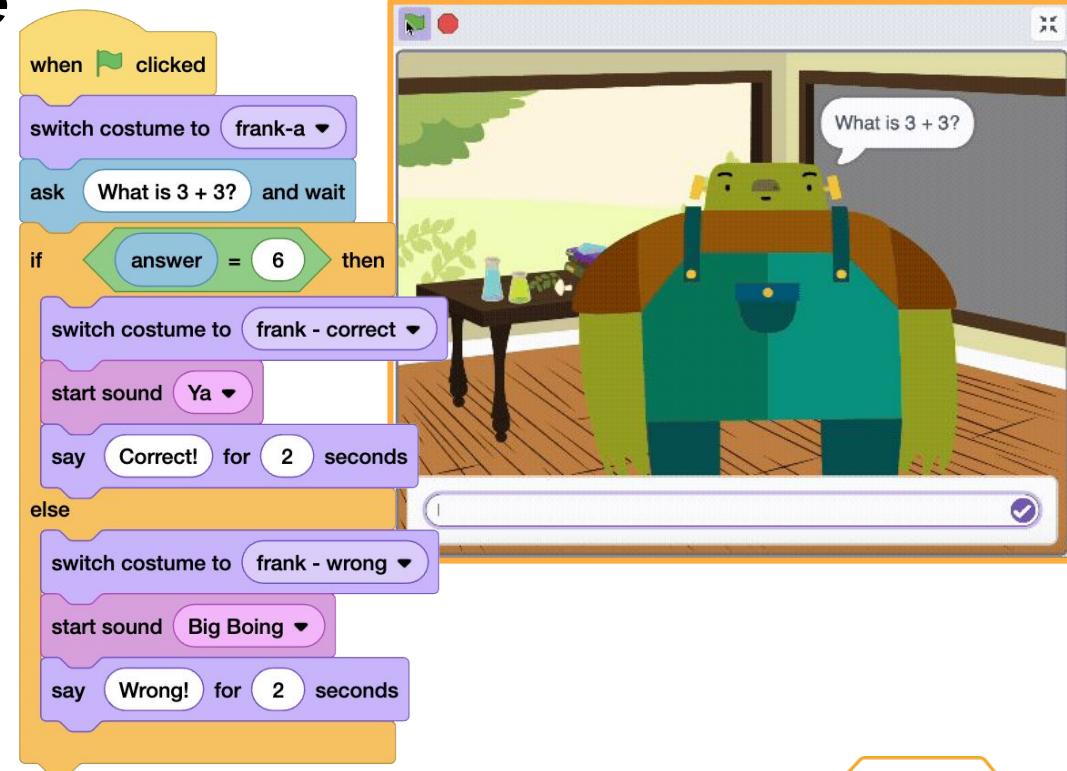
forever
if [touching [mouse-pointer] ?] then
turn [cw] (15) degrees

Create a Math Game

Check out our Achievery Unit [Create a Math Game](#) and our starter project [Math Game](#).

Start by creating a simple conditional statement that checks the “answer” to a question posed with the “ask” block and responds accordingly.

Remix sprites to change expressions and animations (find tips for remixing sprites in our [Sprite Creation](#) resources).

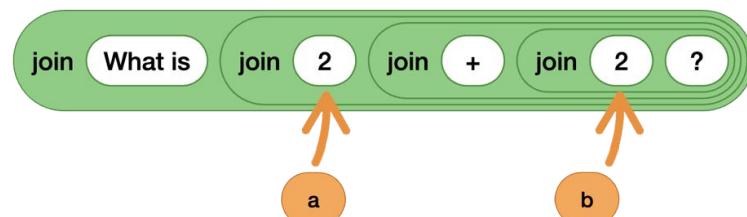
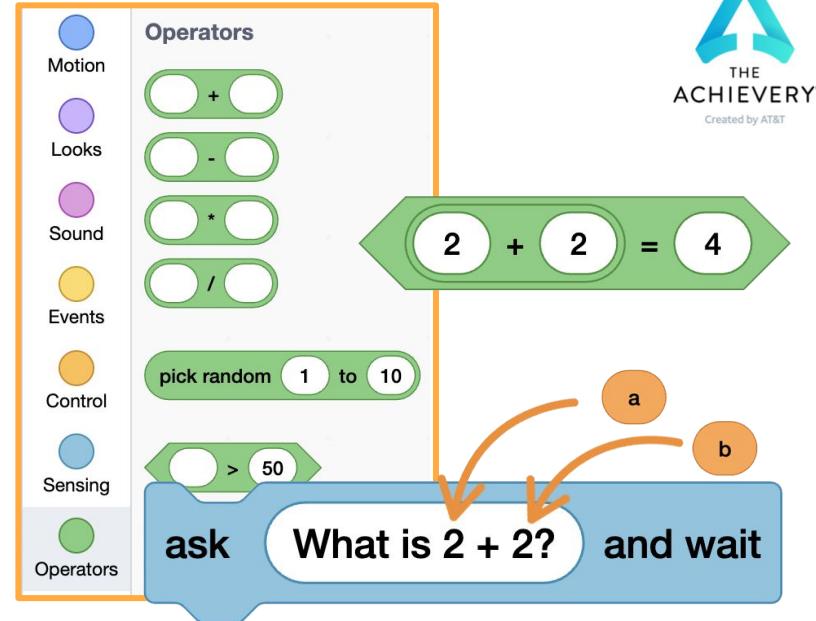


Use Operators

To level up this game, let's start by decomposing the question you want to ask:

- What parts of that question would change with each new question and what parts would remain the same? (For example, where do numbers appear in that question?) How can you represent changeable elements?
- How would you write an equation to calculate an answer using Operator blocks?

See our Achievery Unit “[Arithmetic Operators](#)” to learn more.



Level Up the Math Game

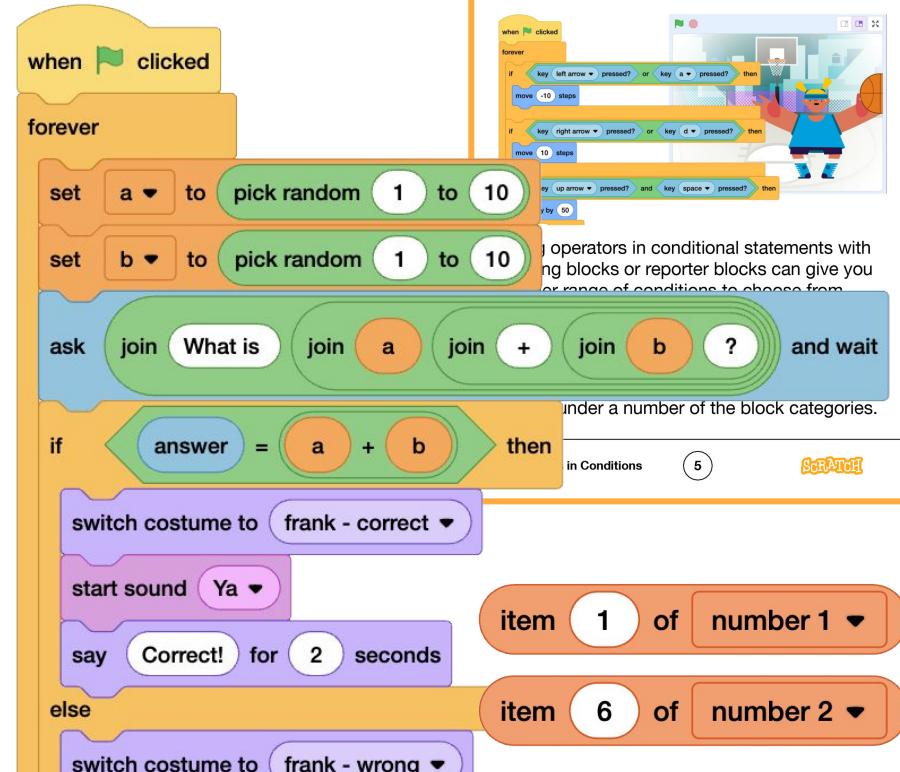
Rather than repeating the same questions in the same order, we can use those pieces we just created in a version of “Math Game” that is more randomized and even more dynamic. It also makes your code writing more efficient, so you don't have to write out each question and answer.

Thinking about why it is necessary to use “pick random” to set a variable rather than just put “pick random” in the “join” block can be a great debugging opportunity.

Or try lists, versus variables plus random.

A different example of using operators: [1010671466](#)

More on Variables and Lists



The image shows a Scratch script for a math game. The script starts with a 'when green flag clicked' hat block, followed by a 'forever' loop. Inside the loop, two variables 'a' and 'b' are set to random values between 1 and 10 using 'set [a/b] to [pick random 1 to 10]'. A 'say' block asks the user 'What is [a] + [b]?' and waits for a response. An 'if' block checks if the user's answer matches the sum of 'a' and 'b'. If correct, the player's costume is changed to 'frank - correct', a sound 'Ya' is played, and the player is told they are correct. If incorrect, the costume is changed to 'frank - wrong'. The script also includes key presses for movement and a space key for a bonus feature.

Operators in Conditional Statements

Operators in conditional statements with reporting blocks or reporter blocks can give you a wider range of conditions to choose from.

under a number of the block categories.

in Conditions

SCRATCH

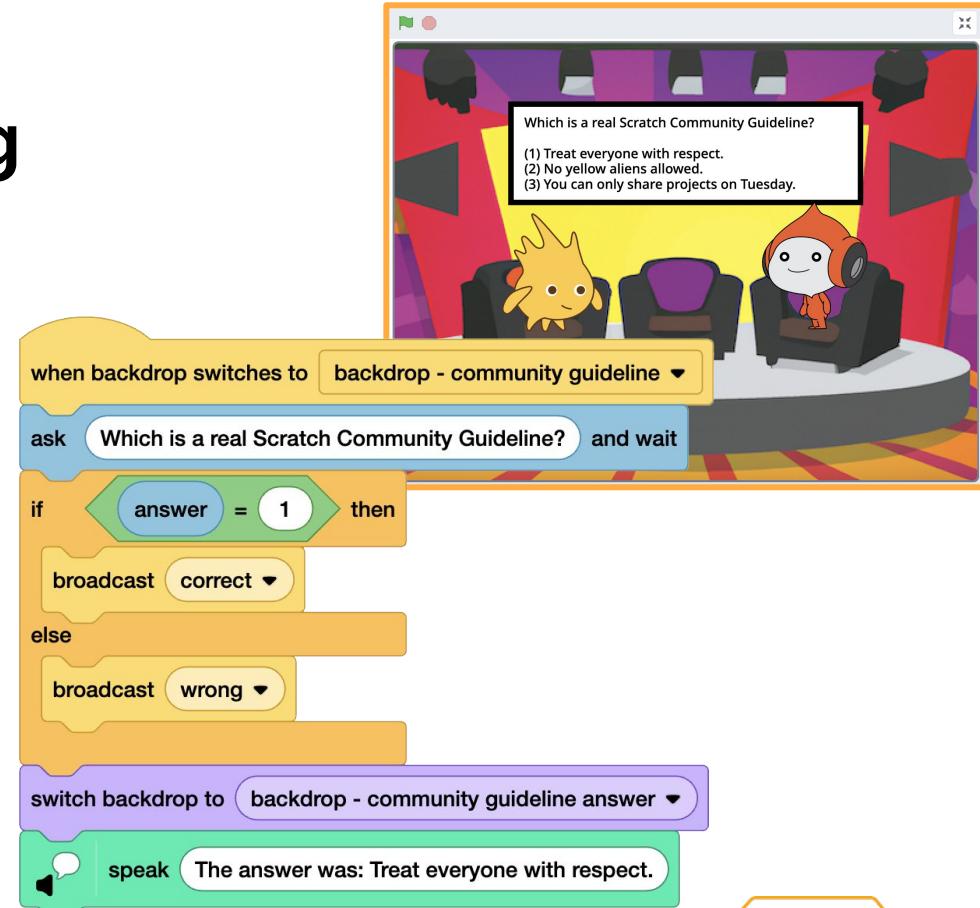
Starter Project

Conditional Storytelling

See our starter project “[Community Quiz](#)” for an example of using conditional statements in a storytelling or informational project. Explore the code for the backdrop.

How can you use conditional statements to influence the direction of a story?

You could start with our “[Story Starter](#)” starter project and continue the story. For example, you could let the viewer choose where the characters should visit next.

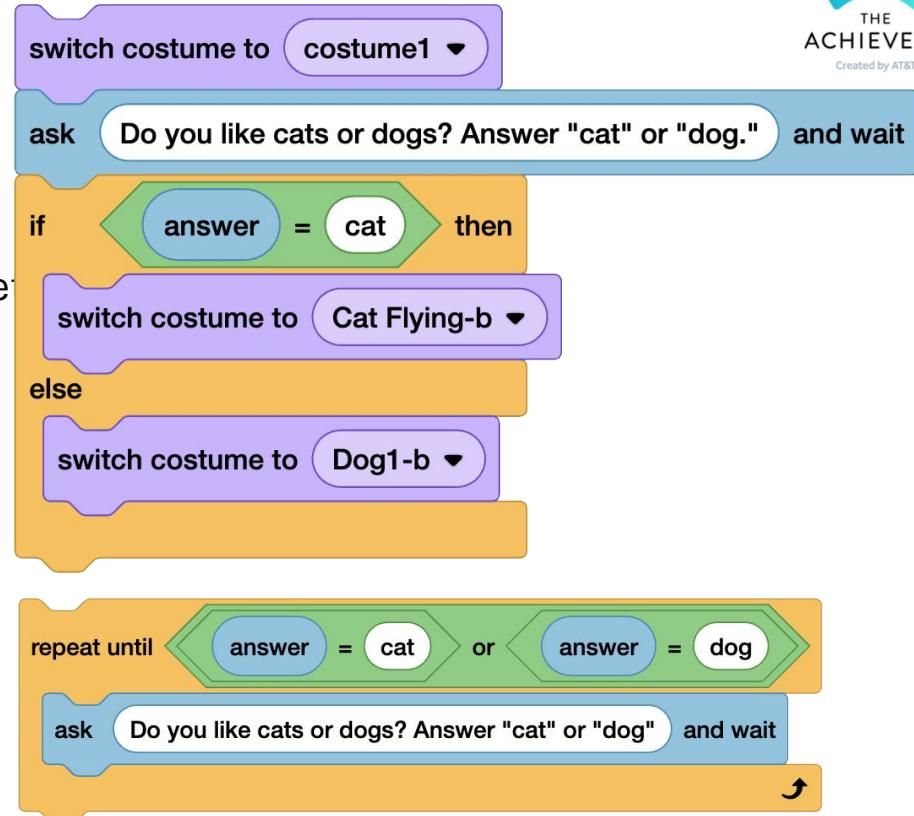


The Unexpected

What could happen if you ask a user for information and they give you bad or incomplete data? How can you ensure you get the information you need for a conditional statement to be true or false?

Check out our Achievery Unit "[Get the Answers You Want](#)." Using a conditional statement like "repeat until [only specific answers are provided]" ensures that when you move on to the "if then" condition, everything works as expected and you've accounted for unexpected behavior.

An example project: [813299201](#)



The Scratch script consists of the following blocks:

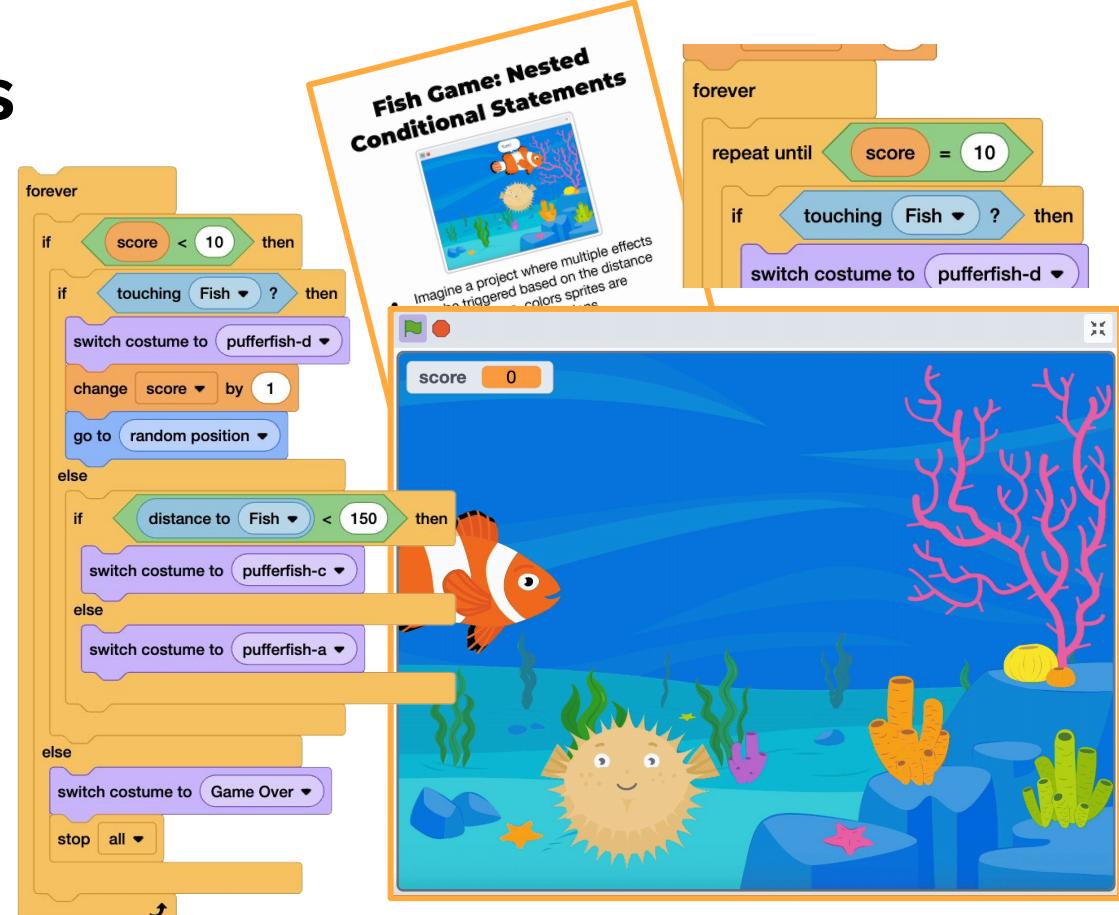
- switch costume to [costume1 v] (purple)
- ask [Do you like cats or dogs? Answer "cat" or "dog."] and wait (light blue)
- if `answer` = [cat] then (orange)
- switch costume to [Cat Flying-b v] (purple)
- else (orange)
- switch costume to [Dog1-b v] (purple)
- repeat until `answer` = [cat] or `answer` = [dog] (green)
- ask [Do you like cats or dogs? Answer "cat" or "dog."] and wait (light blue)

Nesting Statements

Nested conditional statements are where one conditional statement is placed inside another.

The first condition is checked and, depending on if it is true or false, the program may then move forward to check the nested condition inside.

For example, a game could check the total score before continuing to assign points or end the game.



Some example projects: [977165995](#) and [1010672973](#)

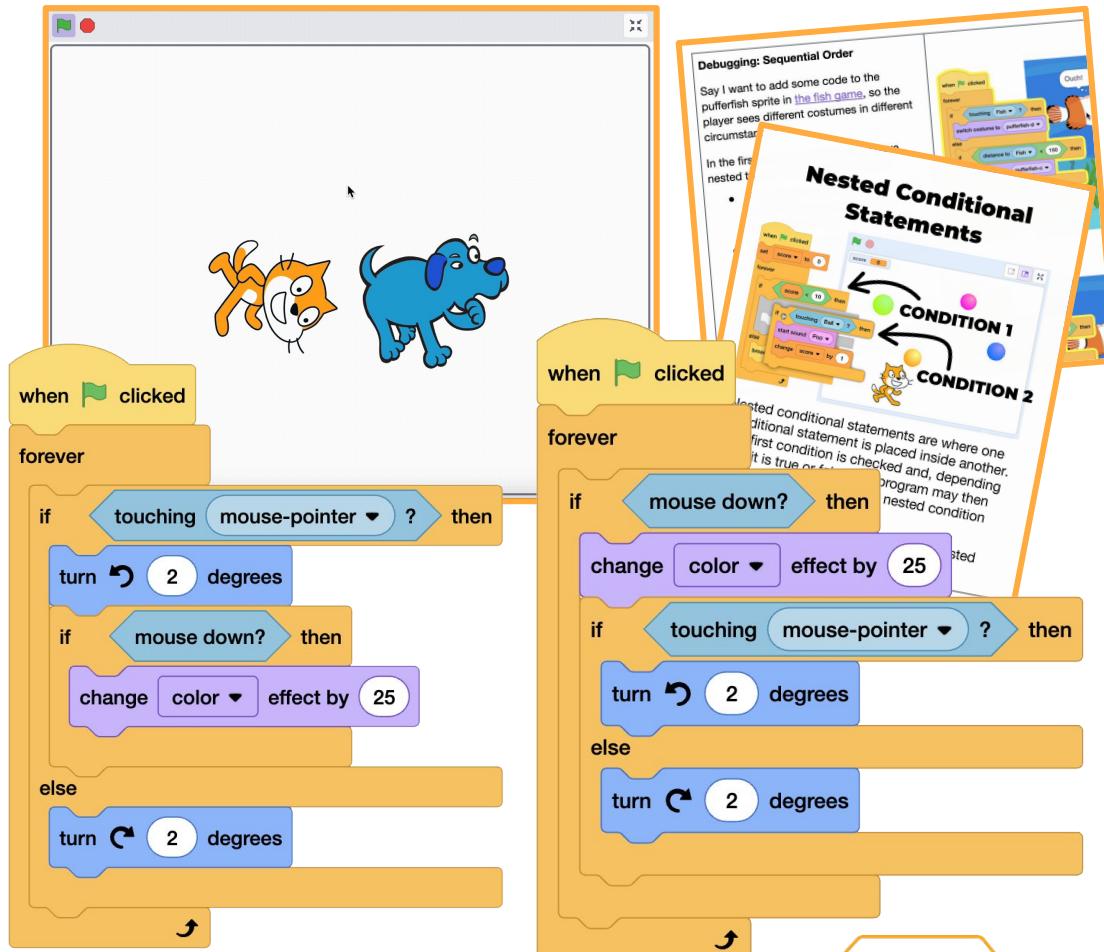
Sequence Matters

Conditional statement stacks can make for great code reading challenges, like:

- Can you tell which is the cat script and which is the dog?
- What do you think the differences will be if you adjust the order of the nesting?

Start hands off: What is your hypothesis of what will happen?
Experiment! What did you observe?
Why did order make a difference?

An example project: [1010679526](https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/1010679526)

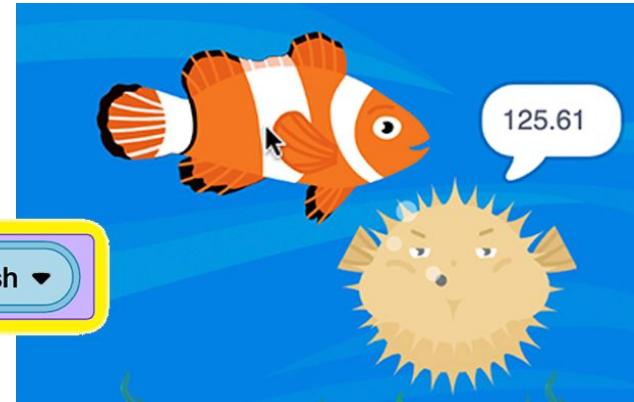
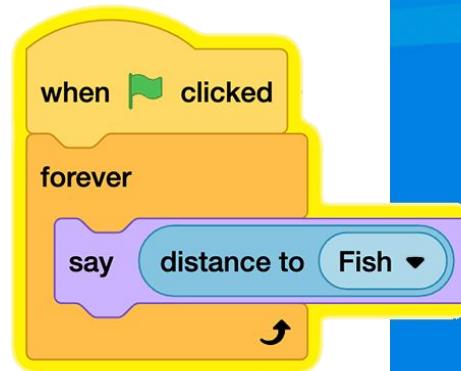
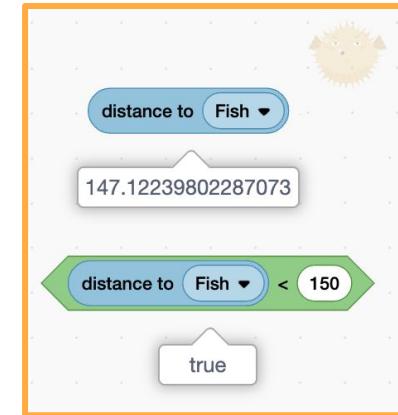
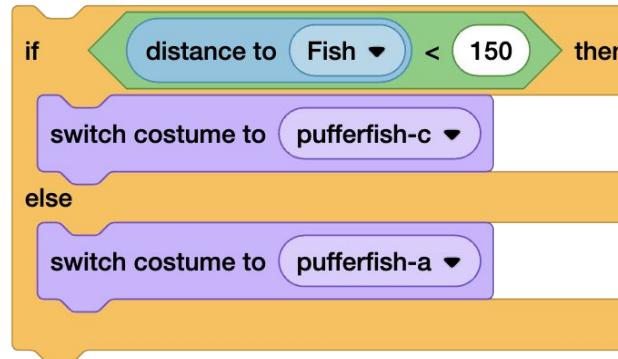


Get Help Setting Your Condition

Say you want a condition that is checking the distance between sprites. It can be hard to judge pixel distance by sight.

Click on the reporter block (“distance to”) on the script area to see the value. Click on it while in the operator block to see if it reads true or false.

Temporarily place the reporter inside a “say” block in a forever loop. Now, your sprite will continually report the “distance to” value as it moves.

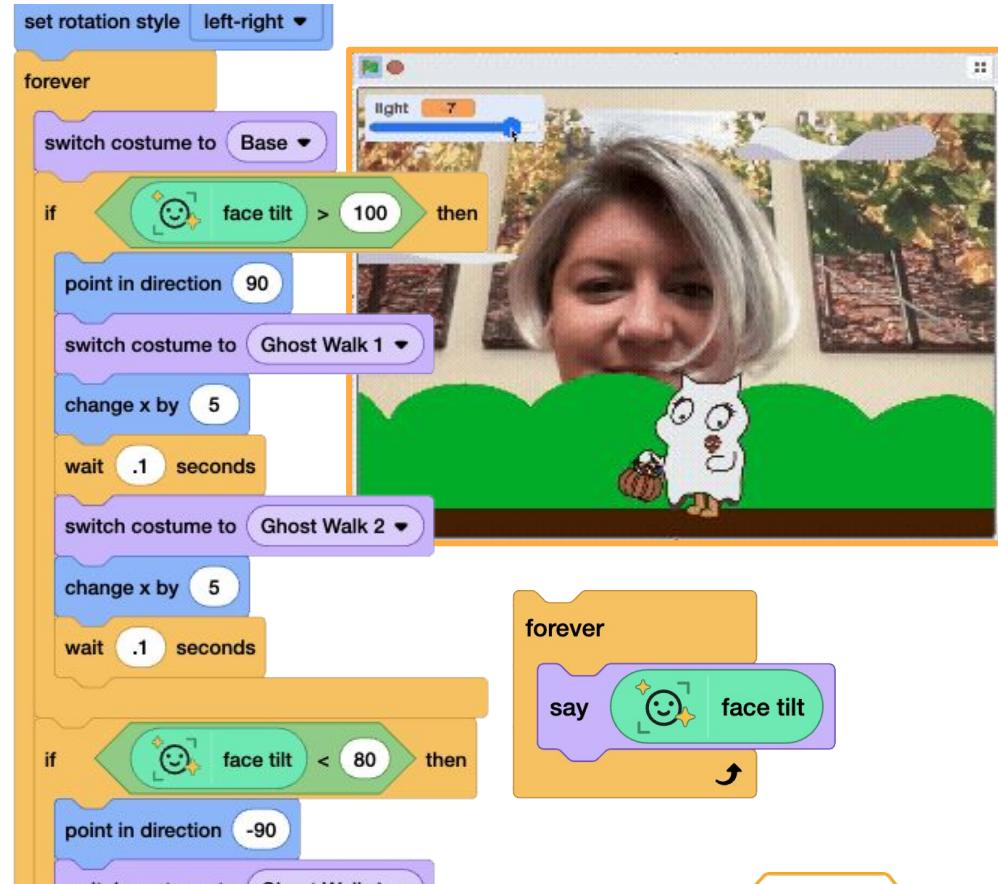


Your Face as the Controller

Try using our Face Sensing blocks and your face to control a project!

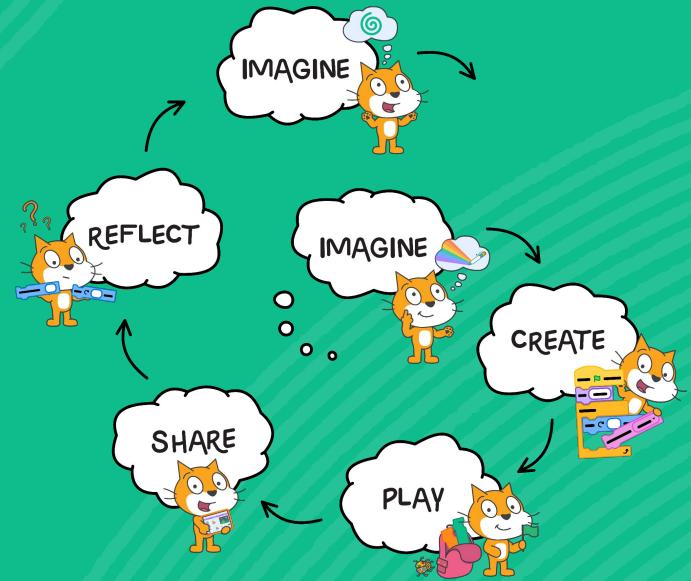
These AI-powered blocks use a machine learning model to detect if they see a face and where a nose, eyes, ears, mouth, etc., are. When you use Face Sensing blocks, **only your computer can sense your face. None of your data is stored or sent to Scratch** or any other site, making it a safe, fun, and creative way to explore the possibilities of AI.

More on Face Sensing, including coding cards.
Example project: [1220596710](#) and studio: [50854499](#)



Debug, Share, and Reflect

Continue Along the Creative Learning Spiral



Debugging

Debugging strategies to suggest include:

- Read Aloud/Explain the Code Step-By-Step
- Break Long Sequences Apart
- Add Temporary Waits to Slow Action
- Tinker with the Block Order
- Is There a Similar but Different Block Option?
- Check the Values/Inputs

See our [Debugging](#) resources for more

Prompts to Try

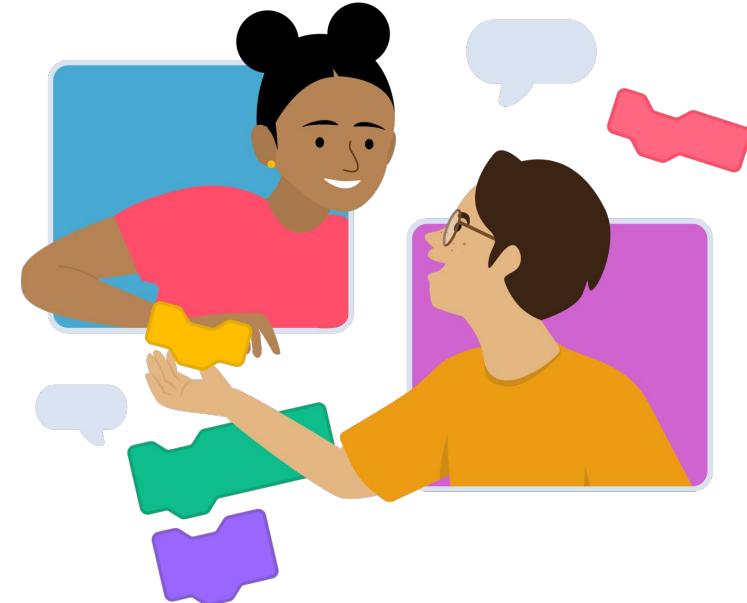
- “Ask Three Before Me,” ask three peers before asking a facilitator.
- I don’t know, but let’s see if anyone else in the room might know/find out together.
- Which category do you think would be helpful?
- Can you say more about that?
- Let’s test it out. What do you observe?
- Walk me through your code. What does it say?

Pair Programming

Have groups of different experience levels? Try pair programming! One person serves as “**driver**” (creating scripts), while the other is a “**navigator**” (reviewing, advising, etc.) and roles are switched frequently.

Together, they can create rich and dynamic projects, in addition to opportunities for them to teach and learn from each other.

When working with more complex topics like conditional statements, pair programming can be helpful for the debugging process.

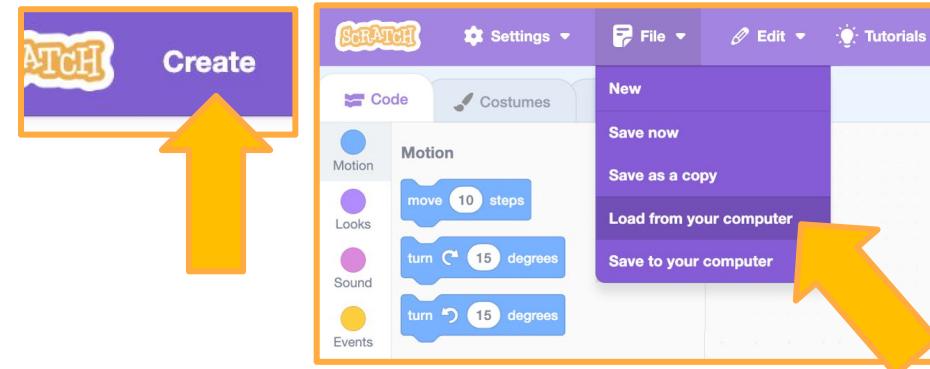
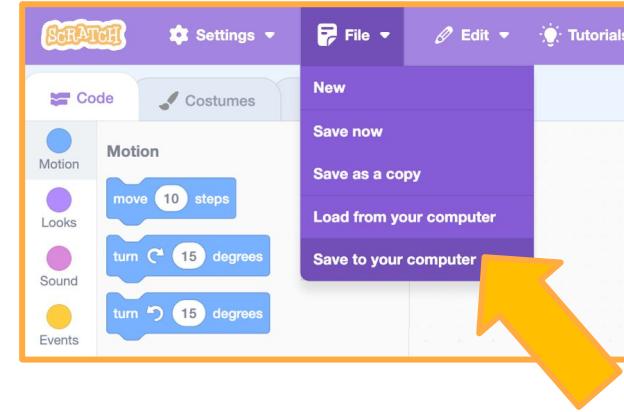


Saving

If you have a Scratch account, your project will save automatically.

If you don't have a Scratch account yet, you can save your project to your computer. Click **“File,”** then choose **“Save to your computer.”**

Next time you want to work on your project, go to scratch.mit.edu and click **“Create.”** Then click **“File,”** choose **“Load from your computer,”** and upload your project.



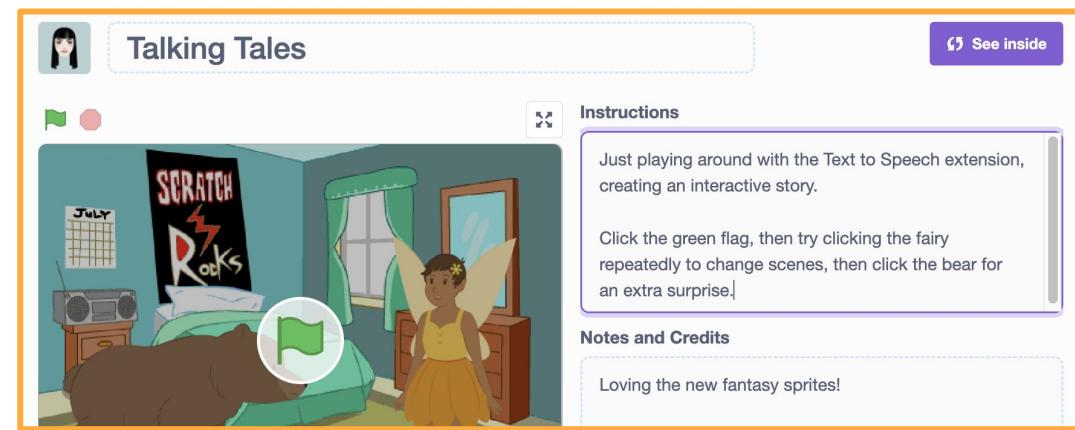
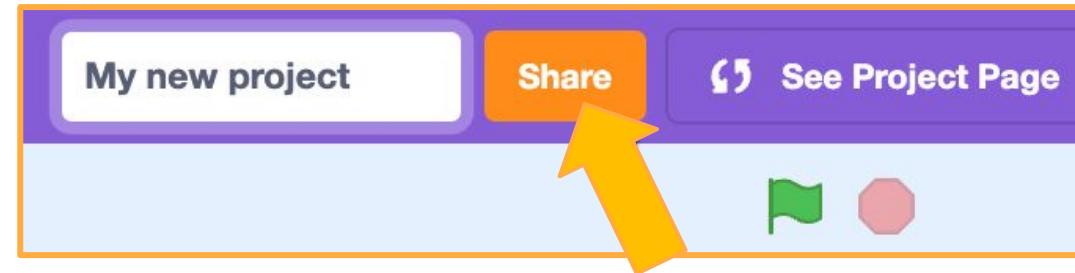
Share Your Project

If you have a Scratch account, you can share your project and add it to studios.

Click the orange “**Share**” button at the top of the Scratch editor to share your project with the Scratch community.

Click the “**See Project Page**” button to go to the project page. This is where you can **add instructions and notes** about your project.

Now other Scratchers can see and interact with your project!



Reflection

- What was fun about this activity?
- What struggles or frustrations did you have during this activity?
- Many pathways, many solutions: Compare your code with other solutions. Was your solution similar or different? Why did you choose the blocks you did?
- If you had more time what would you add or change?

See our [Reflection and Sharing](#) resources for more

Prompts to Try

- I love it! What is it?
- What are your next steps for this project? What do you want to do in the future?

“Turn & Talk” is one technique to reflect and share in a physical environment.

Breakout rooms are an option for small group reflection in virtual spaces.

Record reflections using Scratch’s sound editor. Then, add to a reflection project.

After-Activity Reflection

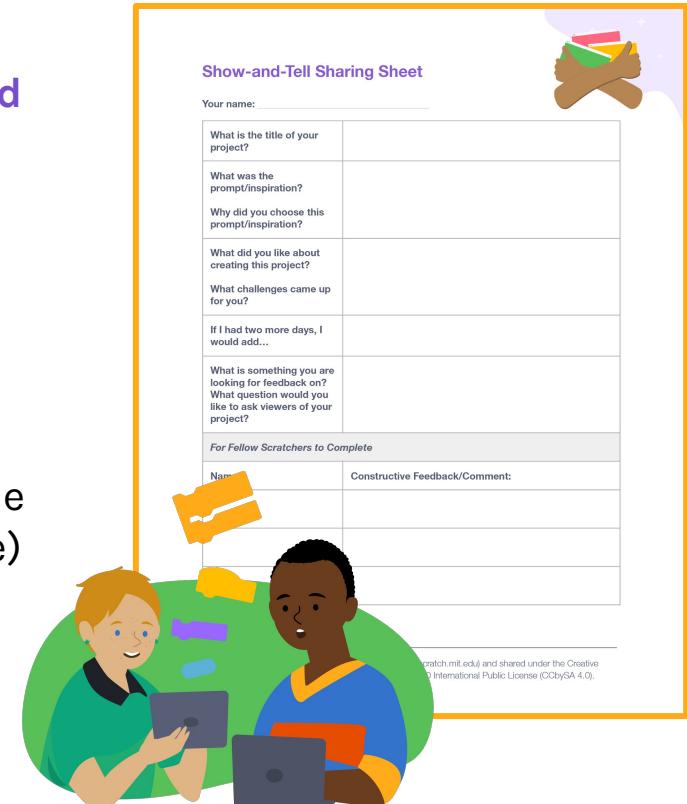
Share Option #1: Create a Class Studio to Gather Shared Projects

Studios are a space on Scratch where users can come together to make, share, and collect projects related to a particular theme, idea, or prompt.

Share Option #2: Gallery Walk

Have your project open on your computer. Walk around the room (or take turns sharing your screen in a virtual space) to experience each other's creations. Take time to look at projects and read/listen/interact with them to learn more about your peers.

More on [Teacher Accounts](#), [Studios](#), and our [Reflection and Sharing](#) resources



Show-and-Tell Sharing Sheet

Your name: _____

What is the title of your project?	_____
What was the prompt/inspiration?	_____
Why did you choose this prompt/inspiration?	_____
What did you like about creating this project?	_____
What challenges came up for you?	_____
If I had two more days, I would add...	_____
What is something you are looking for feedback on? What question would you like to ask viewers of your project?	_____

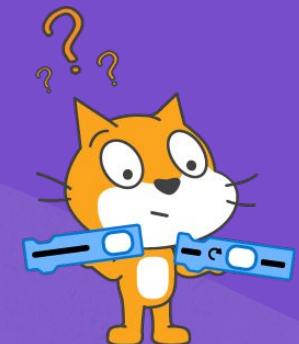
For Fellow Scratchers to Complete

Name	Constructive Feedback/Comment:
------	--------------------------------

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Wrapping Up

Reflecting on Our Session, Resources, Next Steps



Get a copy of our Creative Learning Materials!

In addition to the resources shared throughout these slides:

- See our Learning Library at scratchfoundation.org/learn/learning-library to find lesson plans, coding cards, tutorial videos, and more! For this session, Conditional Statements would be perfect to explore.
- Getting Started with Scratch
- Scratch Creative Learning Philosophy

Find help, inspiration, and information:

- Visit scratch.mit.edu/ideas and scratch.mit.edu/starter-projects
- Click “Tutorials” to see in-editor guides
- Watch tutorial videos on our channel youtube.com/c/ScratchTeam

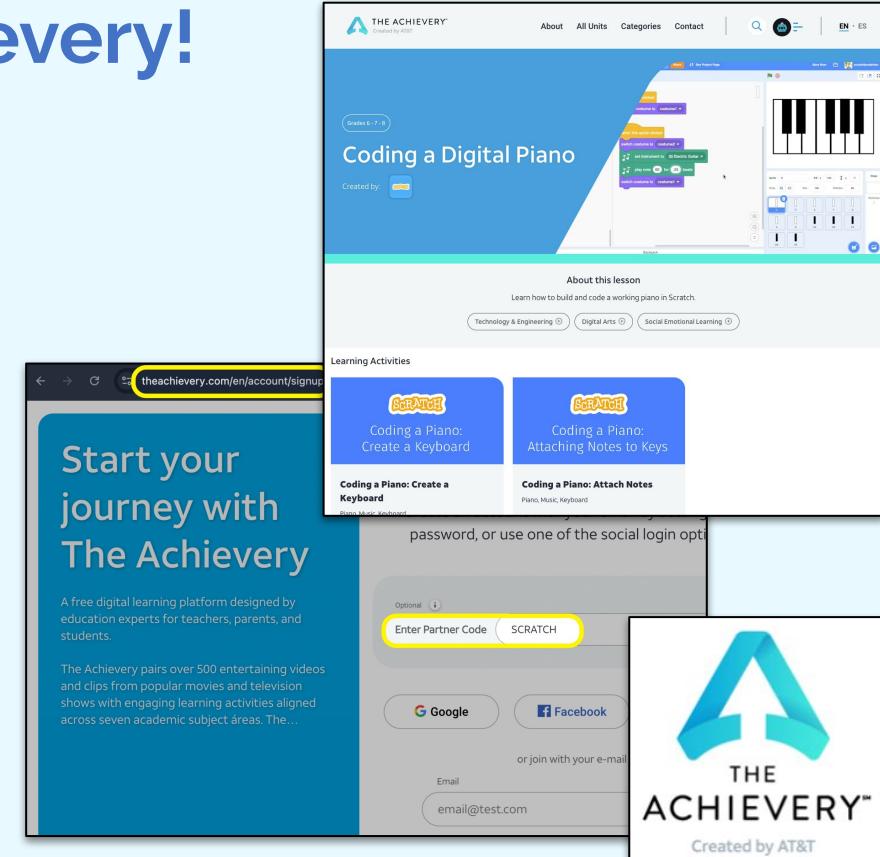
Find Scratch on The Achievery!

The Achievery platform connects K-12 students to a new world of digital learning.

Scratch Foundation has teamed up with The Achievery to provide free beginner and intermediate creative coding lesson plans on a variety of topics for educators, caregivers, and learners.

Sign up (for free!) by using our custom code “SCRATCH” when you register to support our work!

theachievery.com/account/signup



The Achievery pairs over 500 entertaining videos and clips from popular movies and television shows with engaging learning activities aligned across seven academic subject areas. The...



Thank you!

Be sure to subscribe to our Scratch Foundation YouTube channel for Educators ([@scratchfoundation](https://www.youtube.com/@scratchfoundation)).

Keep an eye on our Event page for additional opportunities:
scratchfoundation.org/get-involved/events

Helpful Links:

- Scratch Application: scratch.mit.edu
- Learning Library: scratchfoundation.org/learn/learning-library
- Email Signup: scratch.mit.edu/connect
- Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @ScratchTeam
- Also see our YouTube channel [@scratchteam](https://www.youtube.com/@scratchteam) for tutorials