a statement or statement block if a test condition is true and to skip that statement or block if the condition is false. Thus, an if statement lets a program decide whether a particular statement should be executed.

The syntax is similar to the while syntax:

```plaintext
if (test-condition)  
statement
```

A true test-condition causes the program to execute statement, which can be a single statement or a block. A false test-condition causes the program to skip statement. (See Figure 6.1.) As with loop test conditions, an if test condition is typecast to a bool value, so zero becomes false and nonzero becomes true. The entire if construction counts as a single statement.

**Figure 6.1. The if statement.**