

Can you explain the unexpected use of 'else' in the 'Fix in R' statement?

Authored by
stats writer

June 27, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *Can you explain the unexpected use of 'else' in the 'Fix in R' statement?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=154896>

The unexpected use of 'else' in the 'Fix in R' statement is a programming term that refers to the inclusion of an alternative condition or action in a code block. In this context, the 'else' statement is used to specify what action should be taken if the initial condition is not met. This allows for more efficient and effective problem-solving in the R programming language. It is important for programmers to understand the use of 'else' in order to properly address and resolve unexpected errors in their code.

Fix in R: Error: unexpected 'else' in "else"

One common error you may encounter in R is:

Error: unexpected 'else' in "else"

This error usually occurs when you place an else statement at the start of a new line in R.

This tutorial explains how to fix this error in practice.

How to Reproduce the Error

Suppose we attempt to use an if else statement to print a specific string based on the value of a variable:

```
#define x
```

```
x <- 5
```

```
#use if else statement to print string
```

```
if(x < 7) {
```

```
print("x is less than 7")
```

```
}  
else {  
print("x is not less than 7")  
}
```

Error: unexpected 'else' in "else"

We receive an error because we placed the else statement at the beginning of a brand new line.

How to Fix the Error

To fix this error, we simply need to move the else statement up one line so that it appears immediately after the first closing curly bracket:

```
#define x  
x <- 5  
  
#use if else statement to print string  
if(x < 7) {  
print("x is less than 7")  
} else {  
print("x is not less than 7")  
}
```

"x is less than 7"

This time we don't receive an error and the if else statement prints the string "x is less than 7" since x is indeed less than 7.

The following tutorials explain how to fix other common errors in R:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM