

If
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Upbeat
V. 4, n.1, 1971

My name is If, or to be more precise, I am supposing that, in case of or assuming that. Have you ever stopped to consider what type of life I have? I am usually caught between a do and a don't or a yes and a no. I am the bane of existence for many; for there is often a good side of me and a bad side. I am so indecisive!

Being an *If*, I have come in contact with many famous people, political leaders, ministers, parents, school teachers, and children. But just as an example, let us take my meeting with the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon. Nixon said that he could send our boys home from Viet Nam, but *If* he did, he would be humiliating this country, and going against his oath. See, here I am, the link between encouragement and discouragement. But I am not all that bad. I do serve a purpose. I am part of a decision and that center of rationalization.

Now, how about looking at me in an entirely different way? *If* you were black instead of white, what would you be like? *If* you were inanimate, what would you be made of? *If* you were a bird where would you go? Here I am presenting a thought. I am working with your imagination. You might say I am a semantic. What? I can do many things. I can even be a part of a mathematical equation. If $X=Y$ then $Y=X$.

To go a bit further! My name is even found in morals. If you do not succeed, try and try again. *If* you can't beat them join them.

Surely, I have met with you many times in your life. I certainly hope you are not deceived by my length. I am not as trivial as I appear. In fact, when both sides of me are not considered, I can be as dangerous as the difference between life and death, passing or failing, or winning or losing. So think about me sometime. My name is *IF*.