



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Conditional Tags](http://codex.wordpress.org/Conditional_Tags)

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# Conditional Tags

## ***Introduction***

The Conditional Tags can be used in your Template files to change what content is displayed and how that content is displayed on a particular page depending on what *conditions* that page matches. For example, you might want to display a snippet of text above the series of posts, but only on the main page of your blog. With the [is\\_home\(\)](#) Conditional Tag, that task is made easy.

Note the close relation these tags have to WordPress' [Template Hierarchy](#).

## ***The Conditions For...***

All of the Conditional Tags test to see whether a certain condition is met, and then returns either TRUE or FALSE. **The conditions under which various tags output TRUE is listed below.** Those tags which can accept parameters are so noted.

### **The Main Page**

`is_home()`  
When the main page is being displayed.

### **A Single Post Page**

`is_single()`  
When any single Post page is being displayed.  
`is_single('17')`  
When Post 17 is being displayed as a single Post.  
`is_single('Beef Stew')`  
When the Post with Title "Beef Stew" is being displayed as a single Post.  
`is_single('beef-stew')`  
When the Post with Post Slug "beef-stew" is being displayed as a single Post.

### **A PAGE Page**

This section refer to WordPress [Pages](#), not any generic webpage from your blog.

`is_page()`  
When any [Page](#) is being displayed.  
`is_page('42')`  
When [Page](#) 42 is being displayed.  
`is_page('About Me')`  
When the [Page](#) with Title "About Me" is being displayed.

`is_page('about-me')`

When the [Page](#) with Page Slug "about-me" is being displayed.

## A Category Page

`is_category()`

When any Category archive page is being displayed.

`is_category('6')`

When the archive page for Category 6 is being displayed.

`is_category('Cheeses')`

When the archive page for the Category with Name "Cheeses" is being displayed.

`is_category('cheeses')`

When the archive page for the Category with Category Slug "cheeses" is being displayed.

See also [is\\_archive\(\)](#) and [Category Templates](#).

## An Author Page

`is_author()`

When any Author page is being displayed.

`is_author('1337')`

When the archive page for Author number 1337 is being displayed.

`is_author('Elite Hacker')`

When the archive page for the Author with Nickname "Elite Hacker" is being displayed.

`is_author('elite-hacker')`

When the archive page for the Author with Nicename "elite-hacker" is being displayed.

See also [is\\_archive\(\)](#) and [Author Templates](#).

## A Date Page

`is_date()`

When *any* date-based archive page is being displayed (i.e. a monthly, yearly, daily or time-based archive).

`is_year()`

When a yearly archive is being displayed.

`is_month()`

When a monthly archive is being displayed.

`is_day()`

When a daily archive is being displayed.

`is_time()`

When an hourly, "minutely", or "secondly" archive is being displayed.

See also [is\\_archive\(\)](#).

## Any Archive Page

`is_archive()`

When *any* type of Archive page is being displayed. Category, Author and Date based pages are all types of Archives.

## A Search Result Page

`is_search()`

When a search result page archive is being displayed.

## A 404 Not Found Page

`is_404()`

When a page displays after an "HTTP 404: Not Found" error occurs.

## A Paged Page

`is_paged()`

When the page being displayed is "paged". This refers to an archive or the main page being split up over several pages. This does *not* refer to a Post or [Page](#) whose content has been divided into pages using the `<!--nextpage-->` [QuickTag](#).

## A Syndication

`is_feed()`

When the site requested is a [Syndication](#). This tag is not typically used by users; it is used internally by WordPress and is available for Plugin Developers.

## A Trackback

`is_trackback()`

When the site requested is WordPress' hook into its Trackback engine. This tag is not typically used by users; it is used internally by WordPress and is available for Plugin Developers.

## Working Examples

Here are working samples to demonstrate how to use these conditional tags.

### Single Post

This example shows how to use `is_single()` to display something specific only when viewing a single post page:

```
if (is_single())
{
    echo 'This is just one of many fabulous entries in the ' .
single_cat_title() . ' category!';
}
```

### Date-Based Differences

If someone browses our site by date, let's distinguish posts in different years by using different colors:

```
<?php
// this starts The Loop
if ( have_posts() ) : while ( have_posts() ) : the_post(); ?>
<h2 id="post-<?php the_ID(); ?>">
<a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>" rel="bookmark" title="Permanent Link to <?php
the_title(); ?>">
<?php the_title(); ?></a></h2>
<small><?php the_time('F jS, Y') ?> <!-- by <?php the_author() ?> --></small>

<?php
// are we showing a date-based archive?
if (is_date())
{
    if (date('Y') != get_the_date('Y'))
    {
        // this post was written in a previous year
        // so let's style the content using the "oldentry" class
        echo '<div class="oldentry">';
    } else {
        echo '<div class="entry">';
    }
} else {
    echo '<div class="entry">';
}
the_content('Read the rest of this entry »');
?>
</div>
```

## Variable Sidebar Content

This example will display different content in your sidebar based on what page the reader is currently viewing.

```
<!-- begin sidebar -->
<div id="sidebar">
<?php
// let's generate info appropriate to the page being displayed
if (is_home()) {
    // we're on the home page, so let's show a list of all top-level
categories
    echo "<ul>";
    wp_list_cats('optionall=0&sort_column=name&list=1&children=0');
    echo "</ul>";
} elseif (is_category()) {
    // we're looking at a single category view, so let's show _all_ the
categories
    echo "<ul>";
    wp_list_cats('optionall=1&sort_column=name&list=1&children=1&hierarchica
l=1');
    echo "</ul>";
} elseif (is_single()) {
    // we're looking at a single page, so let's not show anything in the
sidebar
} elseif (is_page()) {
    // we're looking at a static page. Which one?
    if (is_page('About')) {
        // our about page.
        echo "<p>This is my about page!</p>";
    } elseif (is_page('Colophon')) {
        echo "<p>This is my colophon page, running on WordPress " .
bloginfo('version') . "</p>";
    } else {
        // catch-all for other pages
        echo "<p>Vote for Pedro!</p>";
    }
} else {
    // catch-all for everything else (archives, searches, 404s, etc)
    echo "<p>Pedro offers you his protection.</p>";
} // That's all, folks!
?>
<form id="searchform" method="get" action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']; ?>">
<div>
<input type="text" name="s" id="s" size="15" />
<input type="submit" value="<?php _e('Search'); ?>" />
</div>
</form>

</div>
<!-- end sidebar -->
```

## Dynamic Menu Highlighting

The [Dynamic Menu Highlighting](#) article discusses how to use the conditional tags to enable highlighting of the current page in a menu.