Projects

Scratch Cat goes skiing

Create a skiing game in which you avoid obstacles

Step 1 Introduction

You are going to use Scratch to create a skiing game in which you have to avoid randomly appearing obstacles to score points.

What you will make

What you will need

Hardware

- A computer capable of running Scratch

Software

- Scratch 3 (either online (https://rpf.io/scratchon) or offl ine (https://rpf.io/scratchoff))

Downloads

The starter project can be found here (https://rpf.io/p/en/scratch-cat-goes-skiing-go).

Step 2 Getting started

Open the Scratch starter project.

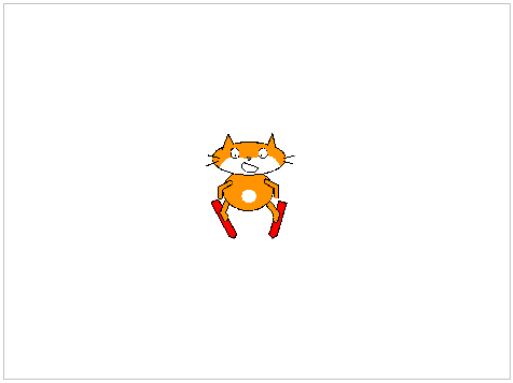
Online: open the starter project at rpf.io/skiingon (https://rpf.io/skiingon).

If you have a Scratch account you can make a copy by clicking Remix.

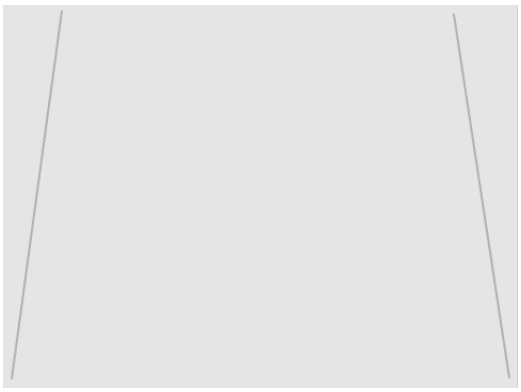
Offline: open the starter project (https://rpf.io/p/en/scratch-cat-goes-skiing-go) in the offline editor.

If you need to download and install the Scratch offline editor, you can find it at rpf.io/scratchoff (https://rpf.io/scratchoff).

In the starter project, you should see a blank backdrop and a skier sprite.

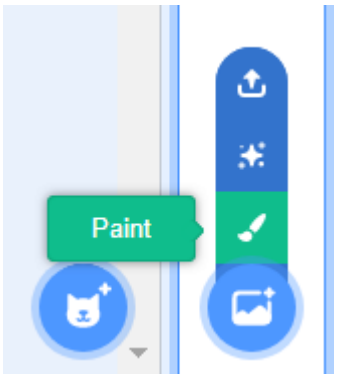


Paint a new backdrop for your ski slope: fill the background grey, and add some straight lines.

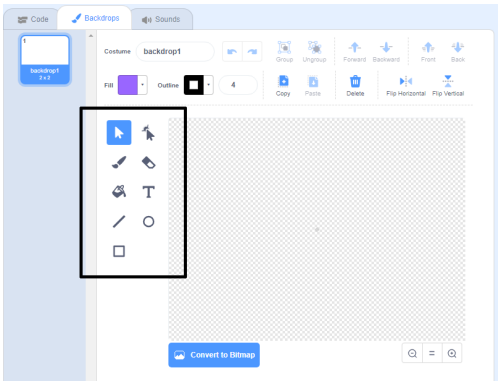


Paint a new Scratch 3 backdrop

- Select the backdrop icon in the bottom right and click on “Paint”

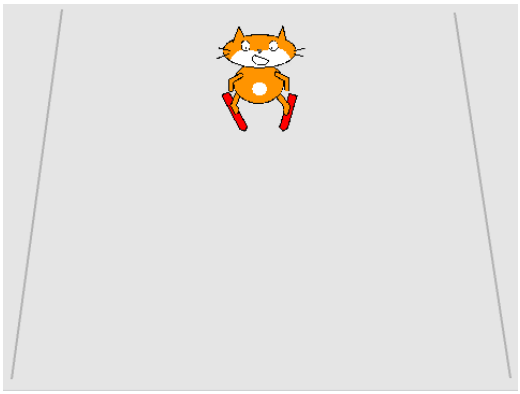


- Use the drawing tools in the Backdrops tab to paint your backdrop.



- When you are finished, don’t forget to give your new backdrop a sensible name.

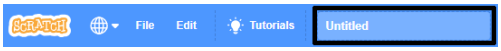
Add code to your skiing cat sprite so that it appears at the top of the slope and faces downhill `when the flag is clicked`.



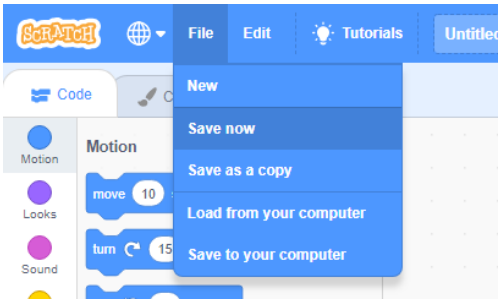
Save and test your project.

Save your Scratch project

First, to give your program a name, type the name of your program in the project name box at the top of the screen:



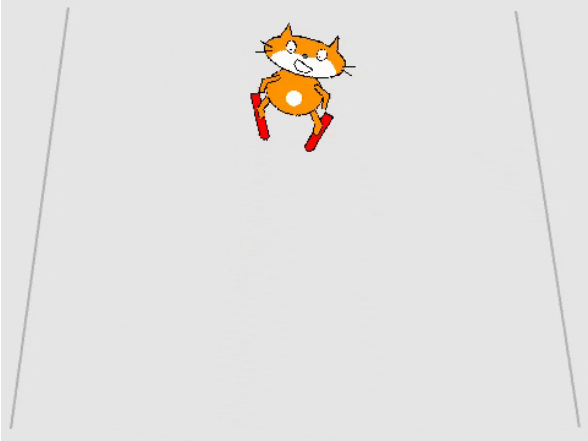
Then, to save your project, click on File, and then on Save now:



Note: If you are not online or you do not have a Scratch account, you can click on Save to your computer to save a copy of your project.

Step 3 Controlling the skier

You will use the left and right arrow keys to control the skier sprite, making it go left and right across the slope.



First, make the skier move and point to the left. Your code needs to:

1. Start `when the left arrow key is pressed`
2. Change the angle the sprite is `pointed`
3. Move the sprite to the left by `changing x`

Use blocks similar to the ones above to make the sprite move to the right `when the right arrow key is pressed`.

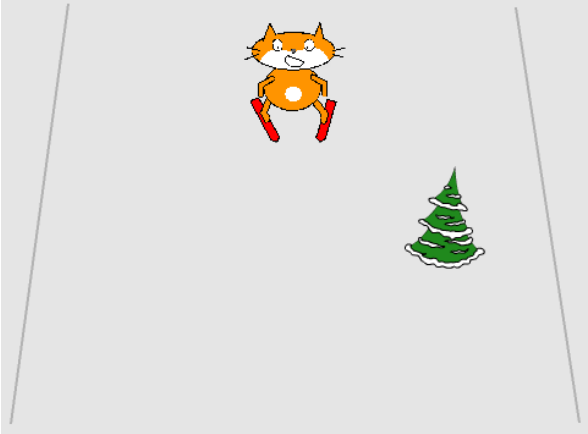
I need a hint

Your code should look like this:

Test your program

Step 4 Adding an obstacle

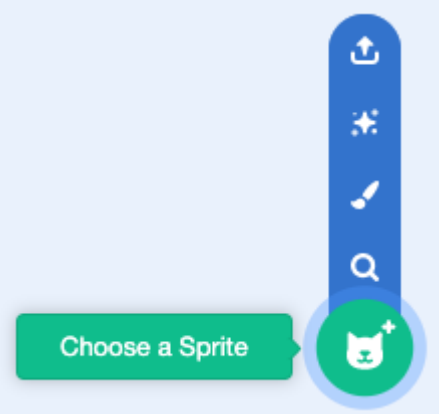
Having obstacles to avoid will make your game more challenging, and making them appear at bottom of the screen and travel upwards will create a sense of movement.



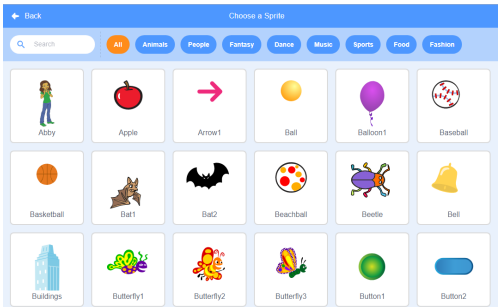
Choose a sprite from the library that will serve as an obstacle — it can be anything you think might be found on a ski slope. Add this new sprite.

Add a sprite from the Sprite Library

Click on Choose a Sprite to open the Sprite Library:



You can search for a sprite, or browse for one by category. Click on a sprite to add it to your project.



You now need to add code to the sprite to make it move:

1. `Go to` the bottom of the slope and `show`
2. `Glide` up the screen
3. `Hide` when it reaches the top
4. `Wait for 1 second` and then repeat

Challenge!

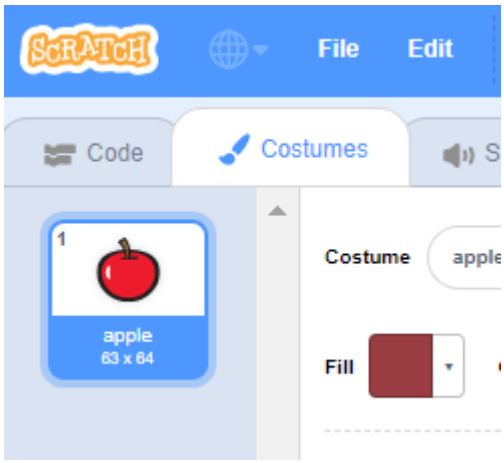
Challenge: change the obstacle's costume

Can you make the obstacle's costume change each time it appears?

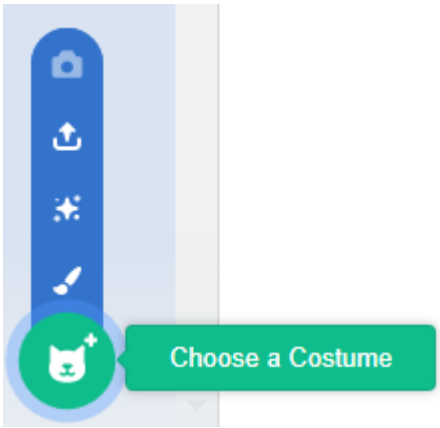
If the sprite you have chosen has only have one costume, you could choose a costume from the library, use another sprite or create your own second costume for the one you already have.

Adding new costumes in Scratch

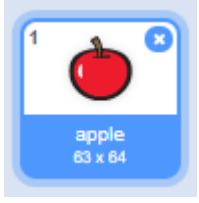
- With your sprite selected, click on the Costumes tab



- Click Choose a Costume and choose one of the five options. From bottom to top they are:
  - Choose costume from library
  - Paint new costume
  - Use a random (surprise) costume
  - Upload costume from file
  - New costume from camera



- If you wish to delete the imported costume, select it and click on the small cross in the top right hand corner.



I need a hint

Add the `next costume` block before the `show`.

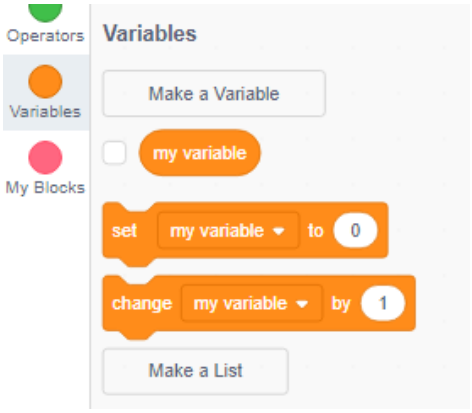
Step 5 Random obstacle

At the moment, the obstacle sprite always appears in the same place on the screen, so it's very easy to avoid. To make the game more challenging, obstacles should appear in a different position every time.

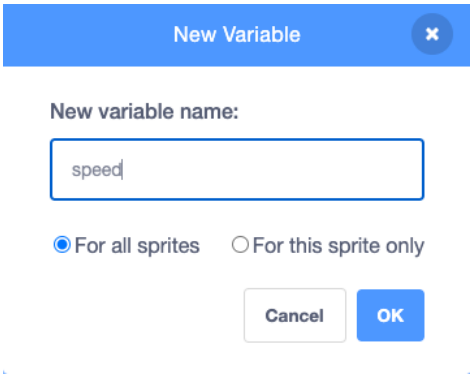
Make a variable called `obstacle_x`.

Add a variable in Scratch

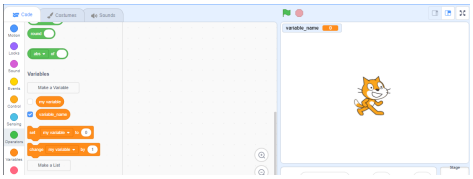
- Click on Variables in the Code tab, then click on Make a Variable.



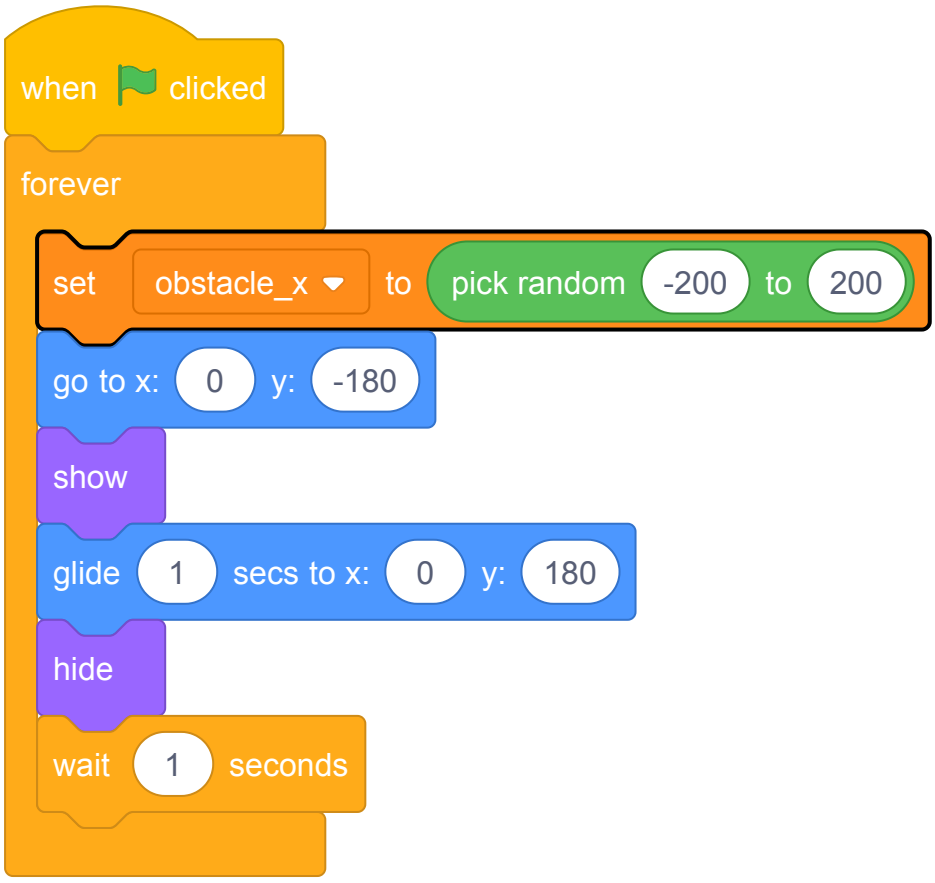
- Type in the name of your variable. You can choose whether you would like your variable to be available to all sprites, or to only this sprite. Press OK.



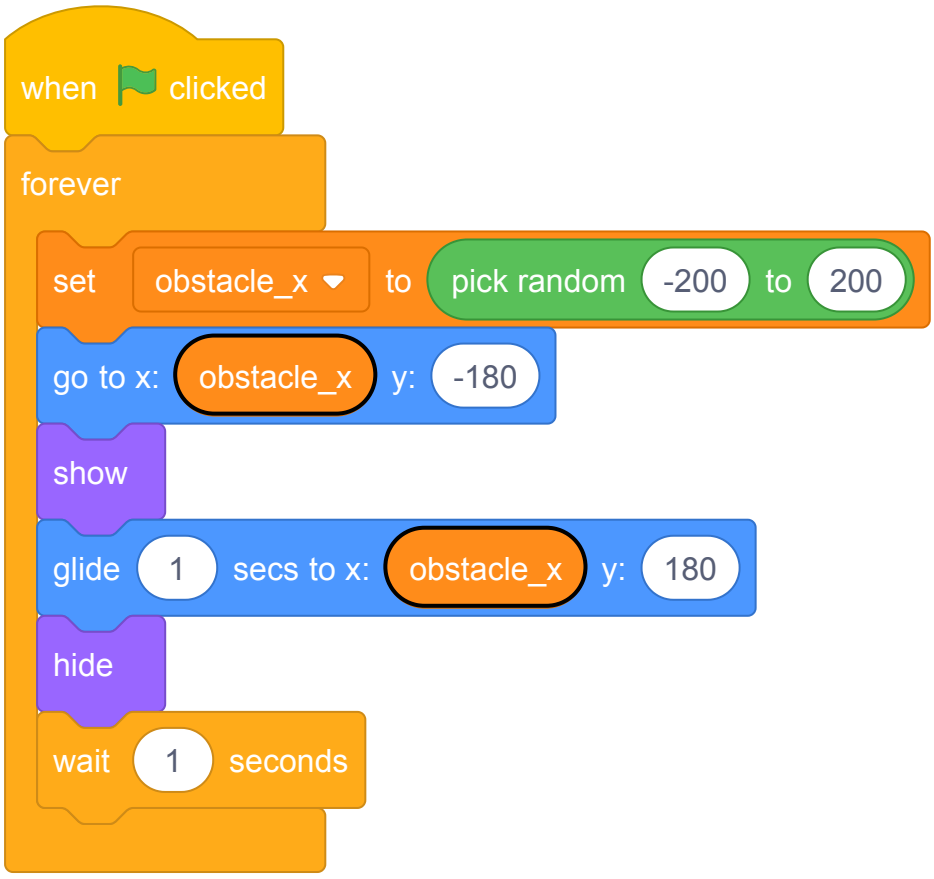
- Once you have created the variable, it will be displayed on the Stage, or you can untick the variable in the Scripts tab to hide it.



At the start of the `forever loop`, `set obstacle_x` to a `random number`.



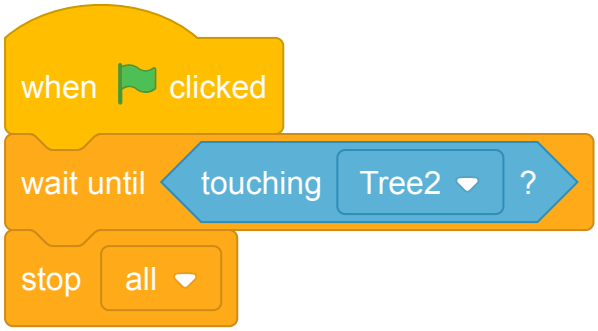
Use the `obstacle_x` variable in the `go to` block and the `glide` block.



Step 6 Crashing

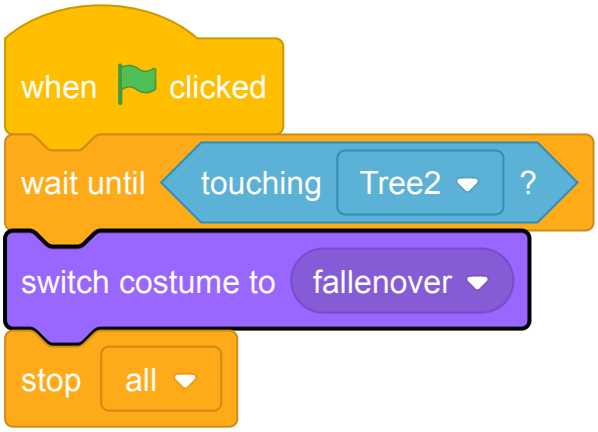
If the skier crashes into an obstacle, it should fall over and the game should end.

Change the code for the skier sprite to `wait until` it is `touching` the obstacle, and to then `stop all`.



When the skier crashes, you should also `switch costume to fallenover`.

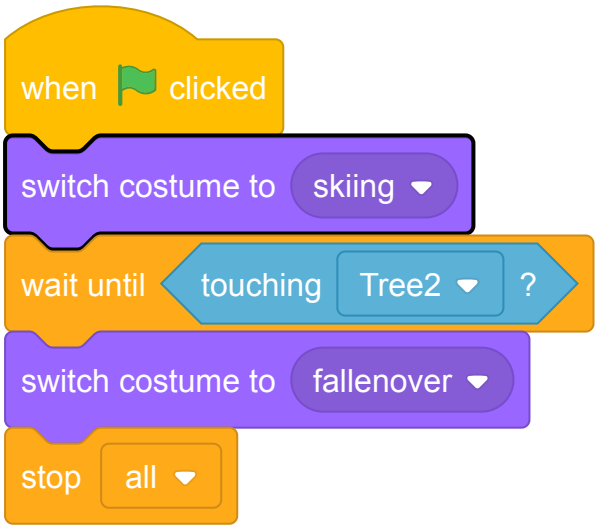
The updated code should look like this:



Save and test your code. When the skier hits the obstacle, the costume should change and the game should stop.

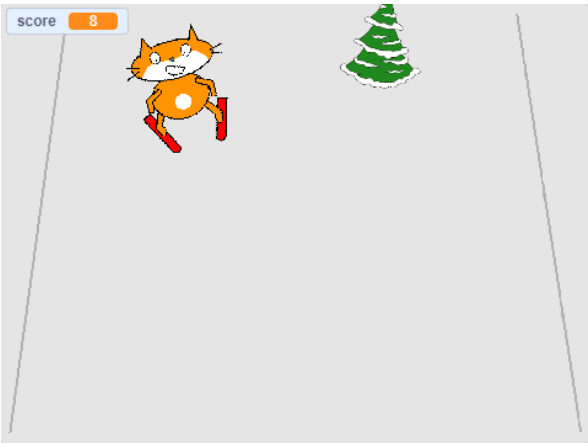
However, there is a now problem with your game: the next time you run it, the skier will still be wearing the `fallenover` costume.

Edit the skier's so that their costume changes back to `skiing` when the game starts by `switching the costume to skiing`.



Step 7 Adding a score

Each time the skier sprite makes it past an obstacle, they should earn points.

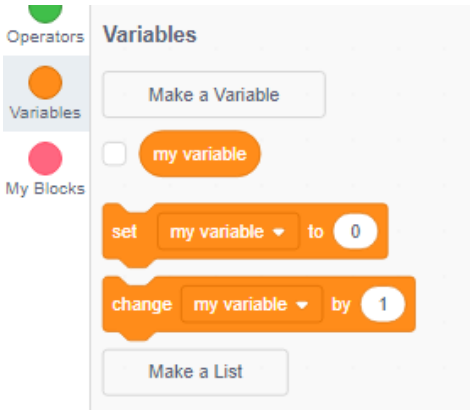


Make a variable called score

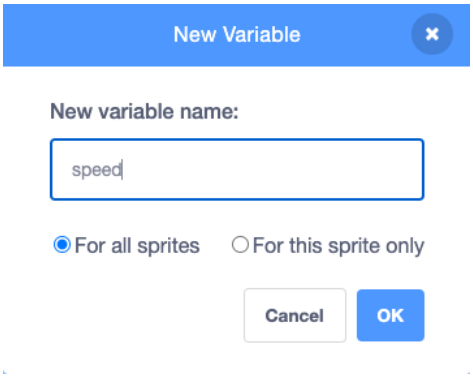
Add a script to the obstacle sprite to set `score` to zero at the start of the game.

Add a variable in Scratch

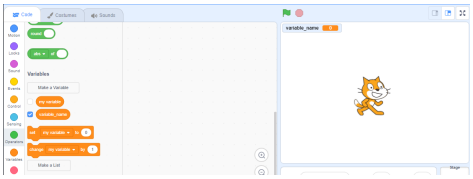
- Click on Variables in the Code tab, then click on Make a Variable.

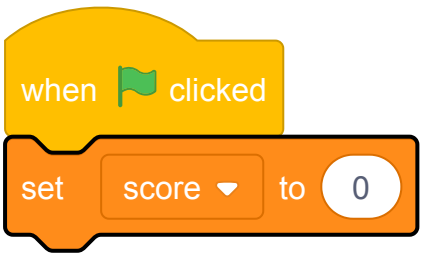


- Type in the name of your variable. You can choose whether you would like your variable to be available to all sprites, or to only this sprite. Press OK.



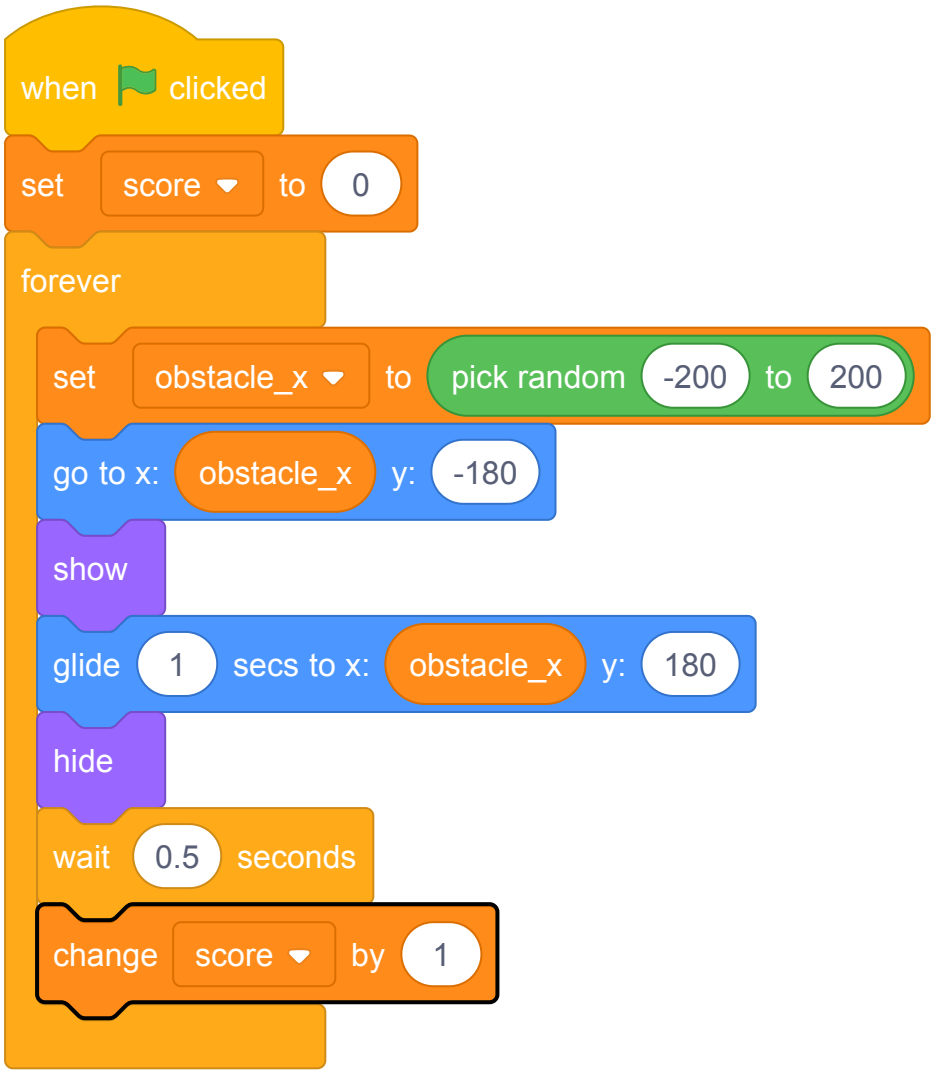
- Once you have created the variable, it will be displayed on the Stage, or you can untick the variable in the Scripts tab to hide it.





Change the code so that when the obstacle gets to the top of the screen, it `changes score by 1`.

The updated script for the sprite should look like this:



Play the game, see how many points you can score.

Challenge!

Challenge: adding more obstacles

Add more sprites from the library as obstacles to make your game trickier!

When you add a new obstacle, you will need to think about:

1. Which sprite to use
2. What happens when the skier crashes into it
3. Whether to increase the score (and by how much) when the skier makes it past

If you need help, go back to the step in this project where you created the first obstacle.

Step 8 What next?

Take a look at the Synchronised Swimming (https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/projects/synchronised-swimming) Scratch project.