

C++ Comments


In this lesson, you will study what comments are and why we should write comments.

We'll cover the following ^

- Introduction to comments
 - Example
 - Types
 - Single-line comments
 - Multi-line comments
- White spaces

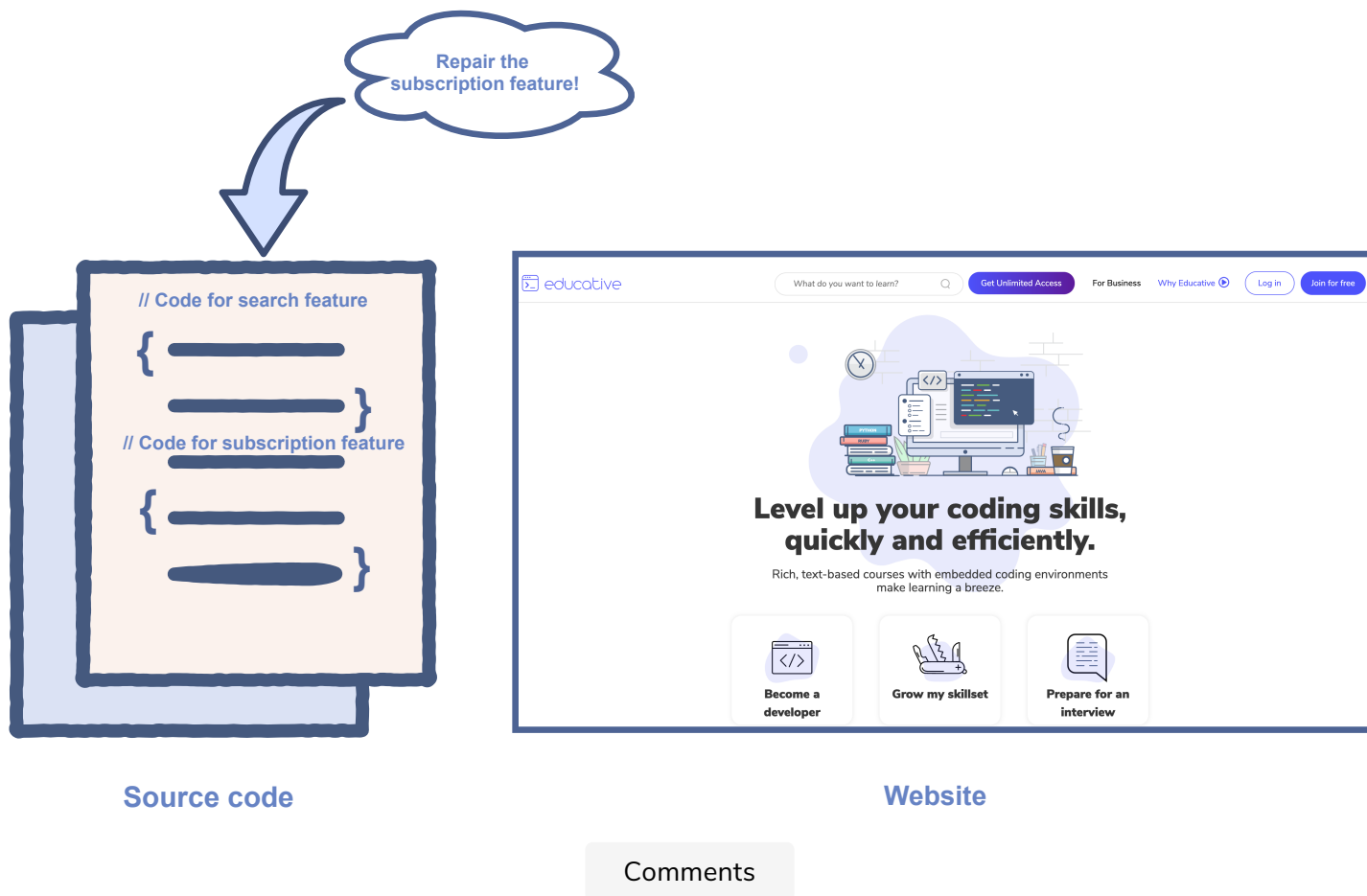
Introduction to comments

Comments are statements written inside the source code to make it easily understandable. The compiler ignores the comments. Therefore, they don't affect the logic of our program.

 **Note:** We write comments for the documentation of our program and to help other people understand our code.

Example

Suppose **Educative** hires you for the maintenance of its website. The source code of a website consists of thousands of lines. To repair the code, you have to understand it first. It's quite an impractical approach to read every line of the code. Here, comments come to the rescue!



Types

In C++, we can add:

- Single-line comments
- Multi-line comments

Single-line comments

We write a **single-line comment** after two backslashes `//`. The compiler ignores anything written after `//`. Let's add single-line comments in a C++ program.

Run the code below and see the output!

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;
int main() {
    // I am a single-line comment
    // Compiler will ignore me
    // cout << "Hey"
    cout << "Hello World";
}
```

Single-line comments

In the above code, we wrote single-line comments from **Lines 5 to 7**. Therefore, the compiler did not execute them.

Multi-line comments

Multi-line comments start with `/*` and end with `*/`. The compiler will ignore anything written inside `/*...*/`. Let's add multi-line comments in a C++ program.


Run the code below and see the output!

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;
int main() {
    /* I am a multi-line comment
    Compiler will ignore me
    cout << "Hey" */
    cout << "Hello World";
}
```

Multi-line comment

In the code above, we wrote multi-line comments from **Lines 5 to 7**. Therefore, they are ignored by the compiler.

 **Best coding practice:** Add meaningful comments in source code to make it understandable.

White spaces

C++ compiler simply ignores the white spaces in source code. White space may include spaces, tabs, and blank lines. Let's add white space in a program.

Run the code below and see the output!

```
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    cout    <<    "Hello World";
```

```
}
```



White spaces

When you run the above code, the compiler does not take the blank lines, tabs, and spaces into consideration, i.e., they do not impact the output of the program in any way.

 **Best coding practice:** Add spaces in a program to increase its readability.

Quiz

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`*...*` adds multi-line comments in a program.

[Retake Quiz](#)

So far, we have covered the printing styles and comments in C++. Let's test your knowledge by solving a challenge in the upcoming lesson.