# Using Content Assist

Use Content Assist to insert C/C++ elements of your project, and code templates into your code. You can insert a code template into your source code rather than retyping commonly-used snippets of code.

To insert a code template or element:

1. In the C/C++ editor, type at least the first letter of a code template or element then **Ctrl+Space**.  
   A list displays the code templates  followed by the elements that start with the letter combination you typed.



1. Do one of the following:
   * Continue typing. The list shortens. When there is only one item in the list, it is automatically inserted.
   * Double-click an item in the list to insert it into your code.
   * Press **Esc** to close the Content Assist Window.

To set Content Assist preferences:

1. Click **Window > Preferences**.
2. Expand **C/C++**, and click **C/C++ Editor**.
3. Click the **Content Assist** tab.  
   
4. Do the following:
   * To change the scope from which Content Assist retrieves its proposals, select either **Search current file and included files** or **Search current project** by selecting the appropriate the radio button.
   * To insert an element when you open Content Assist and it is the only item in the list, select the **Insert single proposals automatically** check box.
   * To automatically insert a proposal, if it is the only one found when Content Assist is invoked, select the **Enable auto activation** checkbox.
   * To display proposals in alphabetical order, rather than by relevance, select the **Present proposals in alphabetical order** checkbox.
   * To change the amount of time Content Assist is permitted to parse proposals enter the value for **Content Assist parsing timeout** in the text box area.
   * Enable Auto activation of content assist for ".", "->" or "::" triggers by selecting the appropriate checkboxes.
   * To change the delay before Content Assist is automatically invoked for the triggers (shown above), enter the new delay in the **Auto activation delay** text box area.
   * To change the background color of the Content Assist dialog box, click the color palette button.
   * To change the foreground color of the Content Assist dialog box, click the color palette button.
5. Click **OK**.



[Content Assist](http://docs.google.com/concepts/cdt_c_content_assist.htm)



[Creating and editing code templates](http://docs.google.com/cdt_t_add_codetemp.htm)

[Importing and exporting code templates](http://docs.google.com/cdt_t_imp_code_temp.htm)



[Content Assist page, Preferences window](http://docs.google.com/reference/cdt_u_c_editor_con_assist.htm)

[Code Templates page](http://docs.google.com/reference/cdt_u_code_temp.htm)

