- This is a quick guide to learn how to work on a project using **Visual Studio 2017**
  - **Note** that instructions might be slightly different depending on which version you are using (community, professional, etc.)
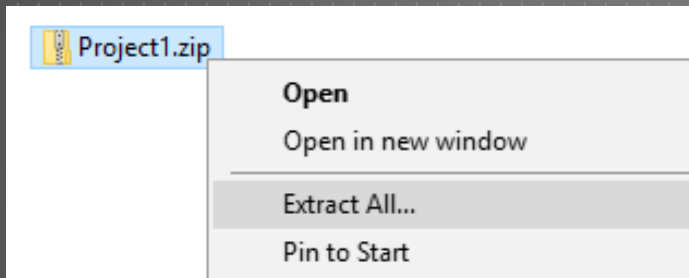
HOW TO WORK ON A PROJECT USING VISUAL STUDIO 2017

HOW TO OPEN A VISUAL STUDIO PROJECT

▶ If you download a project from Canvas, you will notice that the project is compressed as a zip file. Before opening the project, you will need to decompress it.
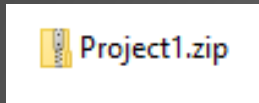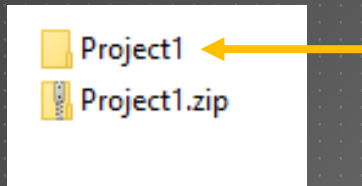

▶ Right-click on the project to decompress it by extracting all the files.

HOW TO OPEN A VISUAL STUDIO PROJECT (CONT.)

▶ Now you have two folders. The one you need to open is the new one.

📁 Project1 ⟵
🗜 Project1.zip

▶ When you open the folder, you might find another folder name the same. Keep on opening until you find a file with extension .sln (the project's solution).

📁 Project1   📁 Project1   📁 Project1
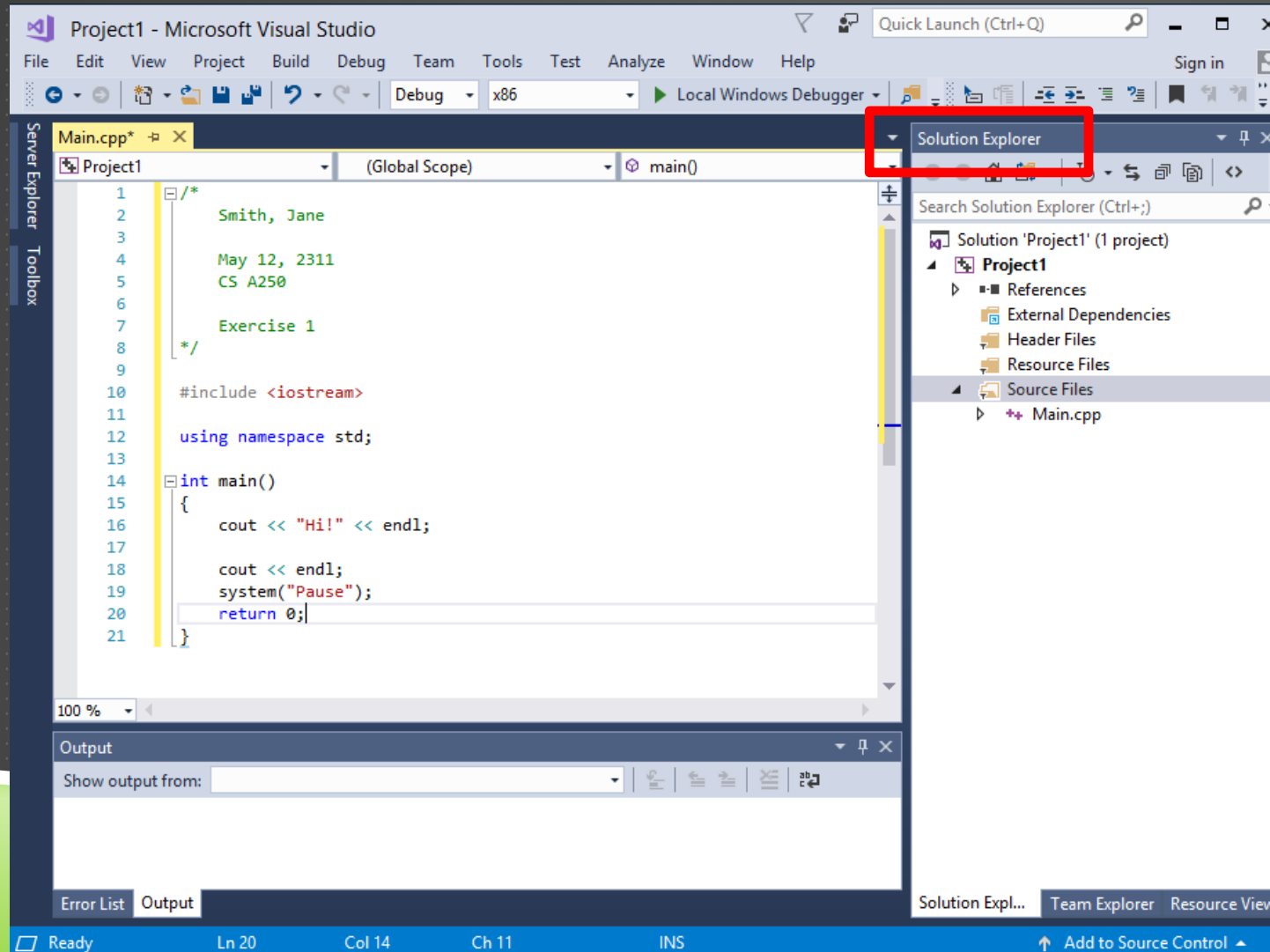🗜 Project1.zip →   →   📇 Project1.sln ⟵
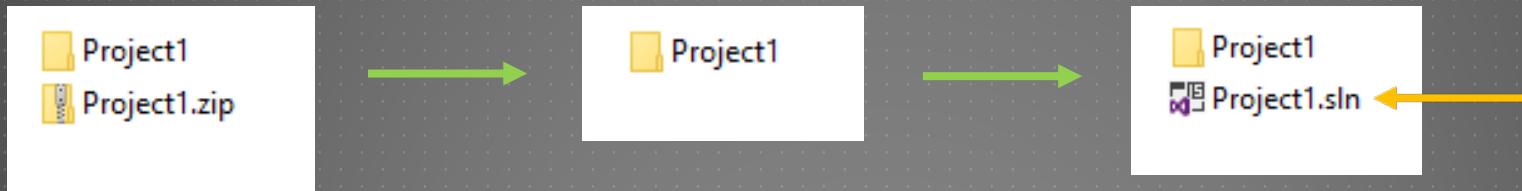
DO NOT OPEN THE MAIN.CPP FILE!

▶ You need to click on the solution file, Project1.sln, because if you open the Project1 folder and open the Main.cpp file, you will NOT be able to work on the project and execute it.
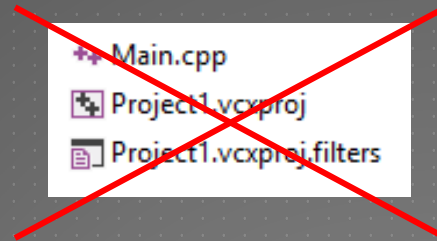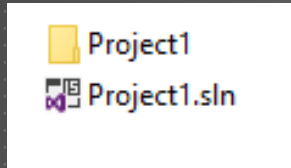
Opening the Main.cpp file is **NOT** the same as opening the project.
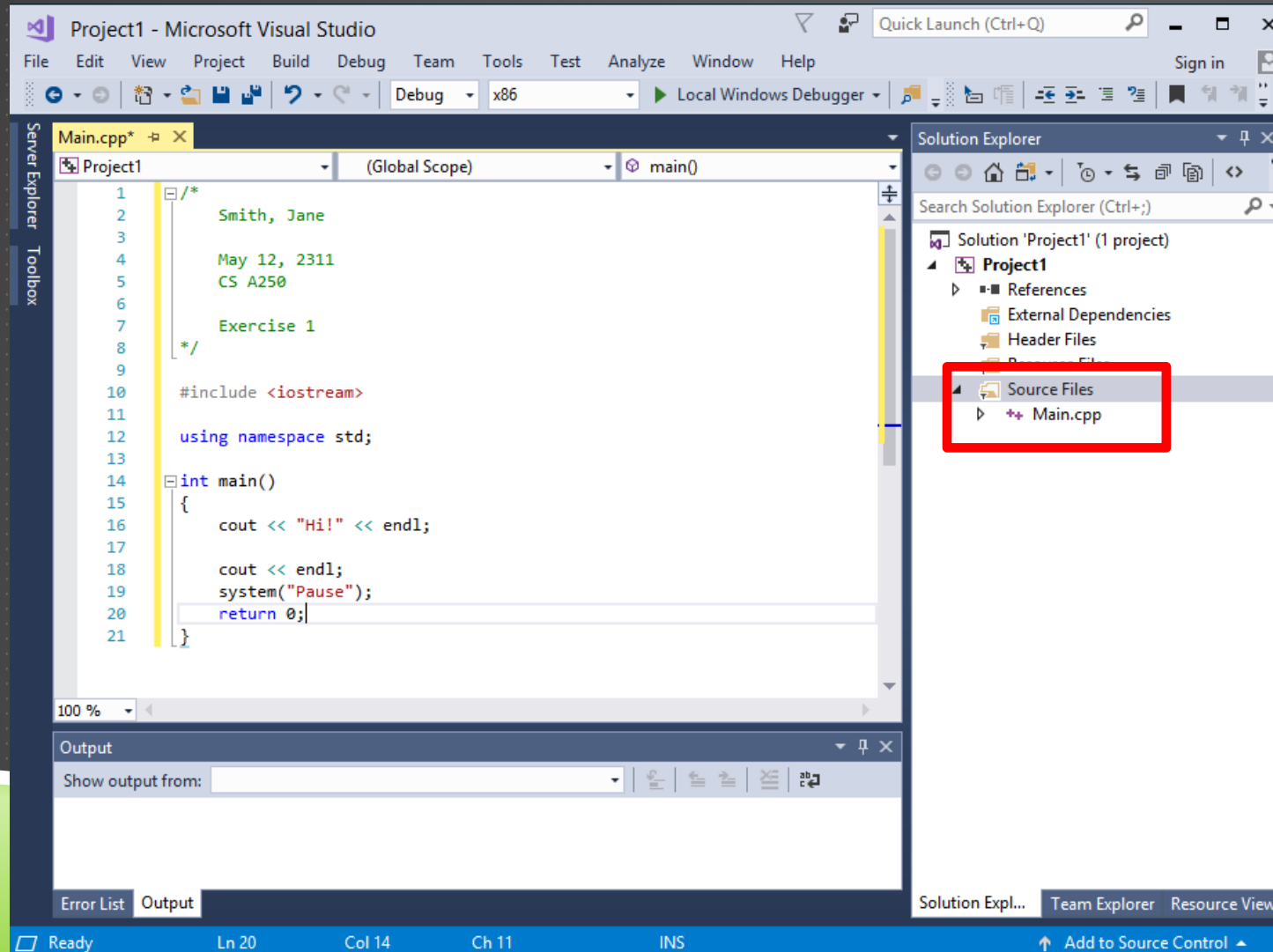
THE SOLUTION EXPLORER

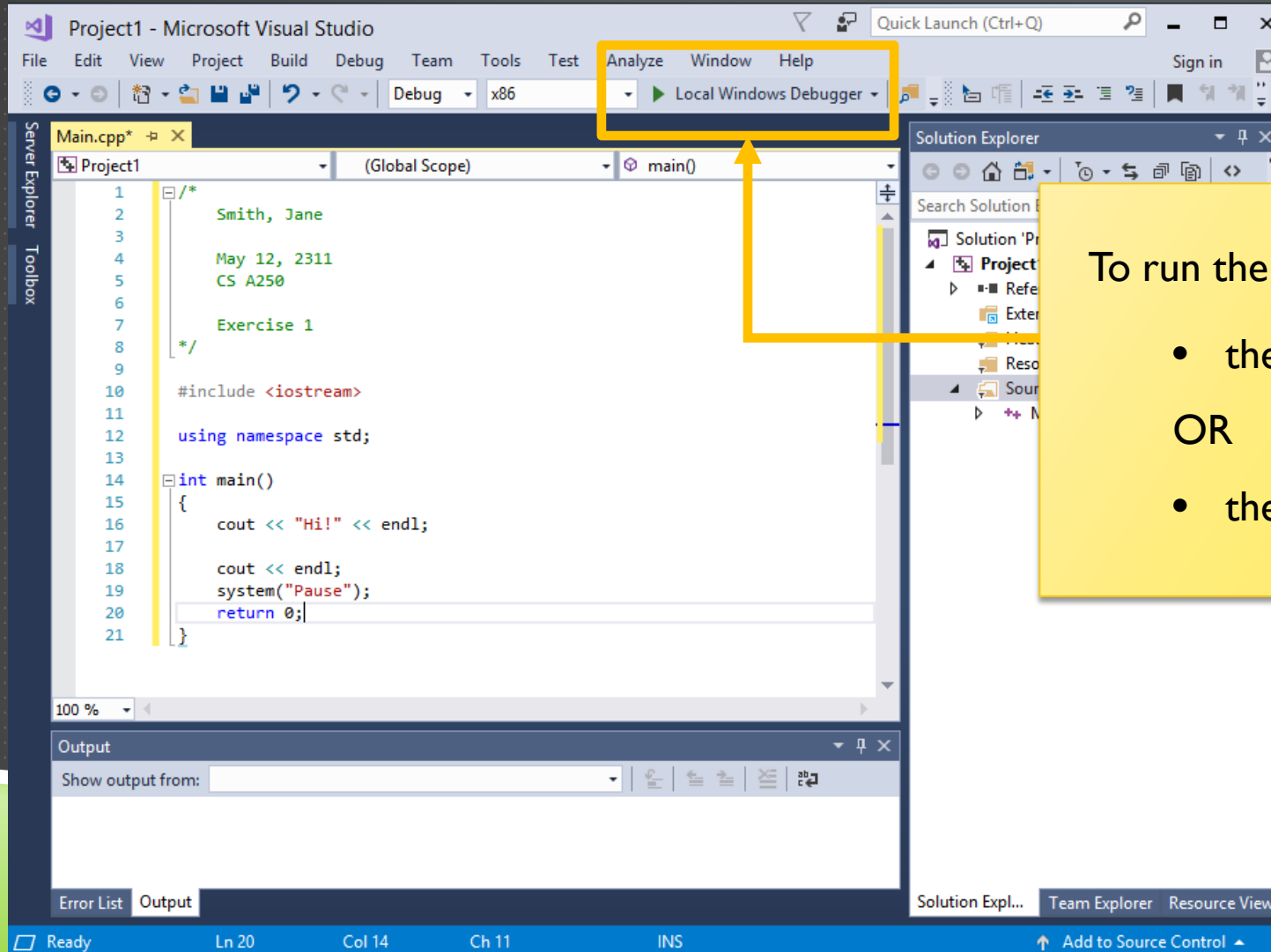Once you opened the project, you will see the **Solution Explorer**.

If it is not there,

select on the **Top Menu**:

View ➔ Solution Explorer

THE SOLUTION EXPLORER (CONT.)

The **Main.cpp** file is in
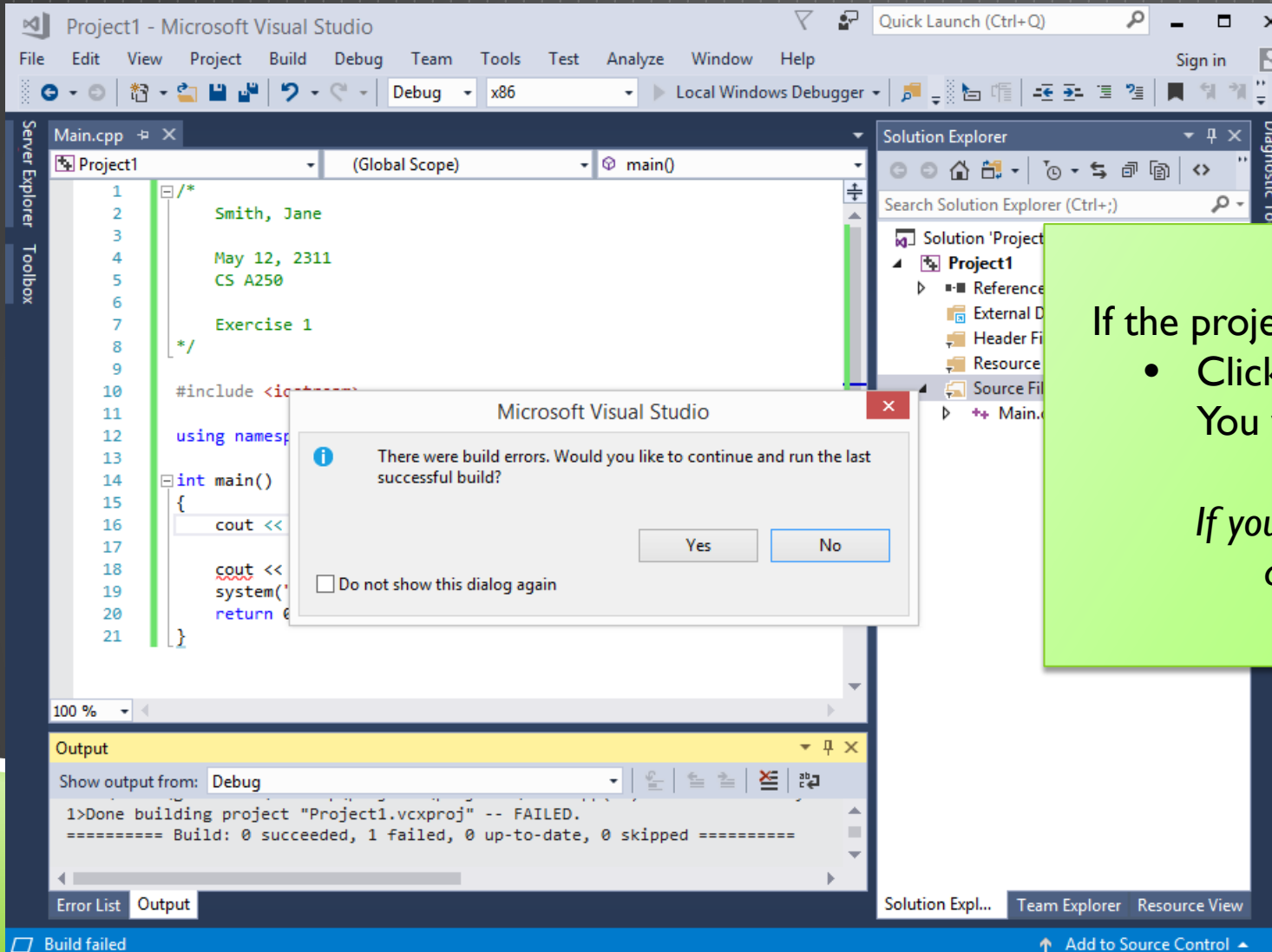
the **Source** folder.

COMPILING YOUR PROGRAM

To run the program, click on

- the **F5** key

OR

- the **Local Windows Debugger icon**.
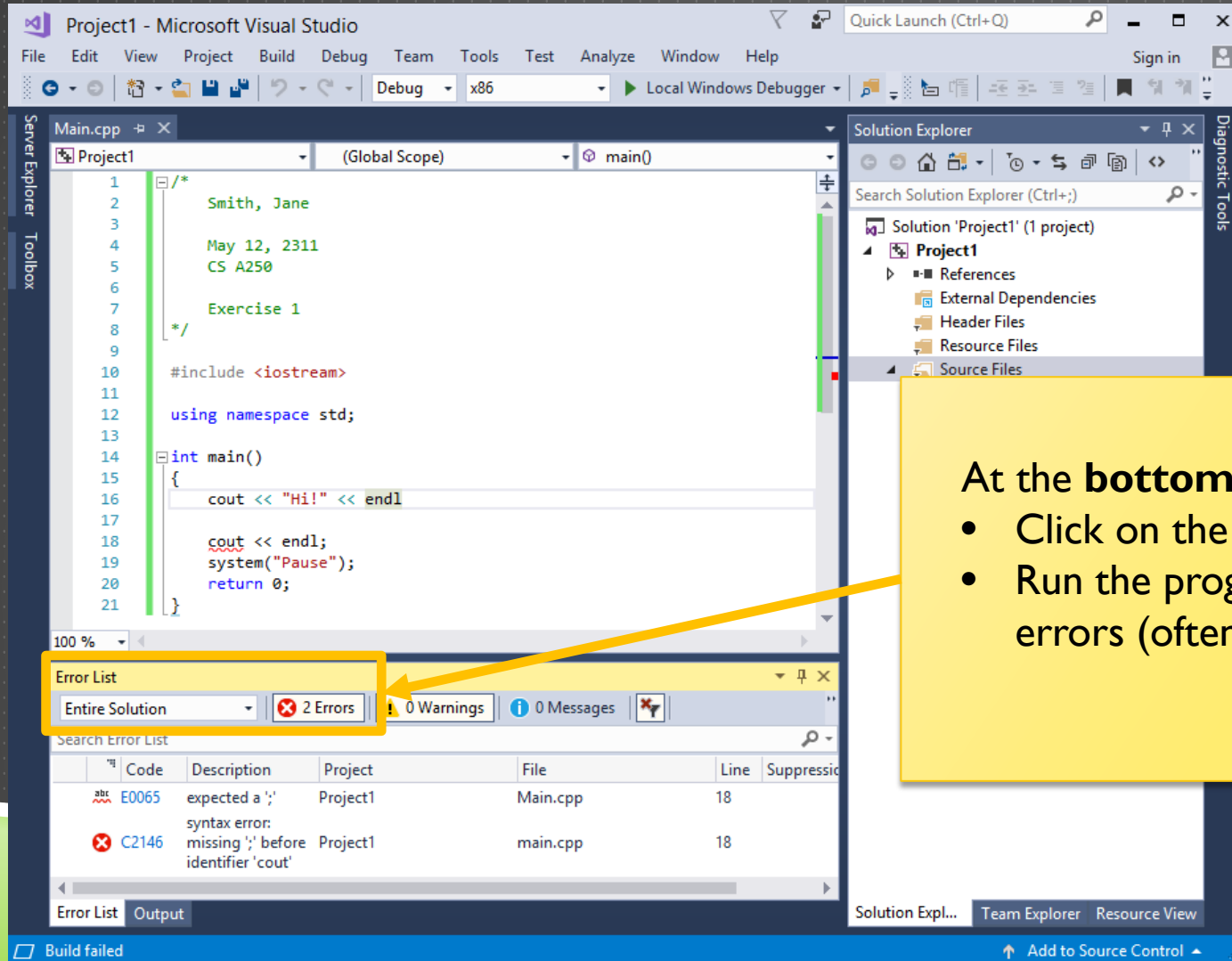
ERRORS

If the project has errors, another window will appear
- Click **NO**
  You want to <u>correct</u> your errors <u>first</u>.

If you clicked yes, you will be running an older compilation that was working earlier.

ERRORS (CONT.)

At the **bottom** there will be a **list of errors**:
- Click on the **first** one and correct that error.
- Run the program again *before* looking at other errors (often, fixing one error clears the rest).

ERRORS (CONT.)

Missing a semicolon (;) after `endl`

REBUILDING THE SOLUTION
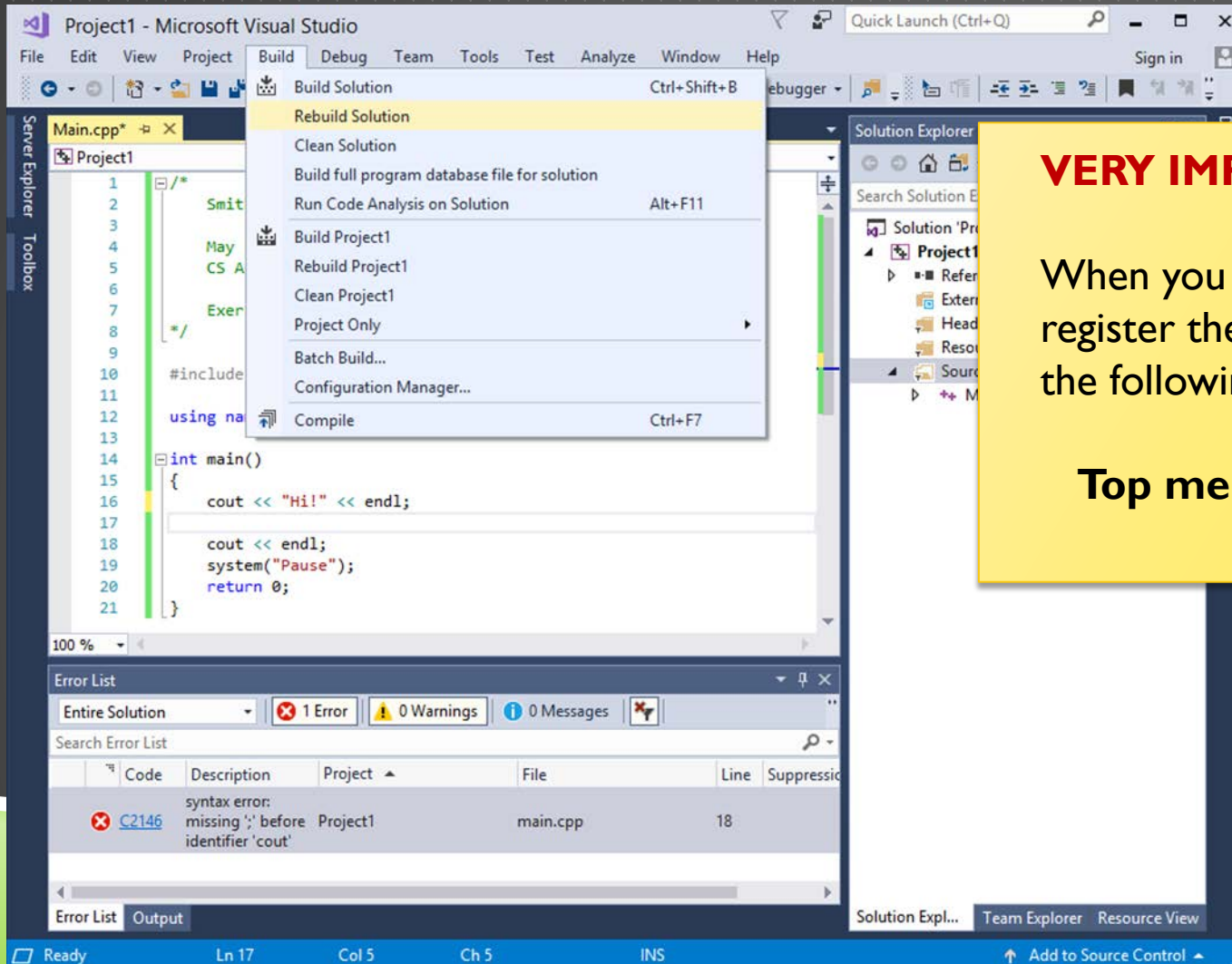
VERY IMPORTANT !!!

When you fix an error, your compiler **might not** register the fix → Instead of hitting F5 again, do the following:
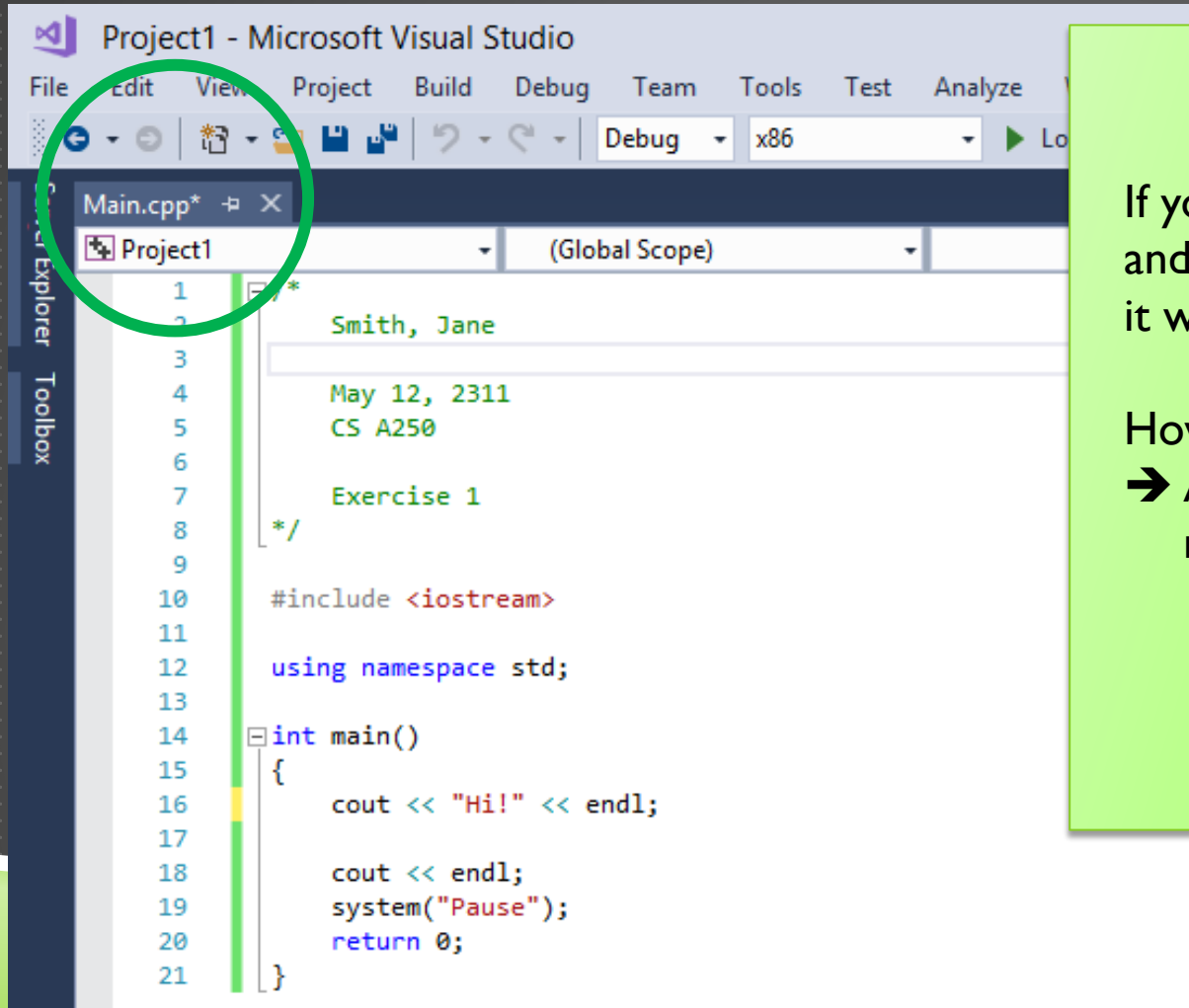
Top menu → BUILD → Rebuild Solution
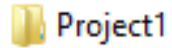
IS YOUR FILE SAVED?

If you compile your program (F5) and your program runs successfully, it will be saved automatically.

How do you know if your file is saved?
➔ An **asterisk** (*) next to the file name means that the file is **NOT** saved.

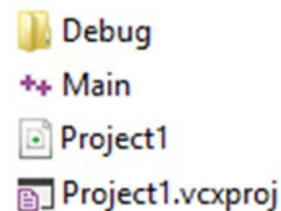Main.cpp*

TO SUM UP: HOW TO OPEN YOUR PROJECT

Project1

Assuming you saved your project as "Project1."
Click on the folder to open it.
There is another "Project1" folder inside.

.vs
Debug
Project1
Project1
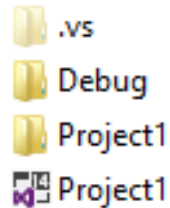
Inside the second "Project1" folder you will find several files.
(Depending on the version you are using, you might have different files, BUT the solution file will be the same.)

To open your project, you need to click on the "**solution**" file.

Debug
Main
Project1
Project1.vcxproj

NOTE: If you open the inner "Project1" folder, you will see all your files. Do **NOT** click on the Main.cpp file, because it will just open the file instead of the project, and you will **not** be able to execute your program!

ADDITIONAL HELP

- You can find additional resources at
  - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/welcome-to-visual-studio