

Slides

Development > Programming Languages > C++

The C++ 20 Masterclass : From Fundamentals to Advanced

Learn and Master Modern C++ From Beginning to Advanced in Plain English : C++11, C++14, C++17, C++20 and More!

4.7 ★★★★★

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Section : Coroutines

1

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C++20 Coroutines

Concepts

Ranges

Coroutines

Modules

- Coroutines are a generalization of functions in C++
- They are designed to make writing asynchronous code much easier

Function

- Can be called
- Can return something

Coroutine

- Can be called
- Can return something
- Can be paused
- Can be resumed

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```


C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

9

Lazy computations

```
...
...
... auto f = some_coroutine(); // Store computation info in f
...
... //Use f to manipulate the computation
...
...
```

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Coroutine workflow

Functions

```
#include <iostream>

void func1(){
    //Doing stuff
}

void func2(){
    double a {56};
    double b {100};
    func1();
}

void func3(){
    func2();
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    func3();
    return 0;
}
```

Call stack

```
.....func1
.....func2.....func2.....func2
.....func3.....func3.....func3.....func3
main -> main -> main -> main -> main -> main -> main
```

Coroutines

```
#include <iostream>

void func1(){
    //Doing stuff
}

void func2(){
    double a {56};
    double b {100};
    //Suspension point
    func1();
}

void func3(){
    func2();
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    func3();
    return 0;
}
```

Coroutines : call stack [pause –resume]

```
.....func2 -> Pause --> Store state.....
.....func3.....func3.....func3.....
main -> main --> main.....-> main --> main

.....func1
.....func2.....func2.....func2
-> Resume func2 -> main --> restore func2 state --> main --> main -->main --> main
```


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Coroutine keywords

. C++ 20 introduces three keywords that help pause and resume coroutines.

`co_yield` : suspends the execution and returns a value

`co_return` : completes execution and optionally returns a value

`co_await` : suspends the execution until resumed

. If a function has one of those keywords, it becomes a coroutine. There is no other special syntax for coroutines.

• It's not every function in C++ that can be a coroutine. The functions below can't be coroutines.

- constexpr functions
- constructors
- destructors
- the main function

• ...

It's not every function in C++ that can be a coroutine. The functions below can't be coroutines.

- constexpr functions
- constructors
- destructors
- the main function

Coroutine keywords can't show up in these functions

21

co_yield

```
#include <iostream>

coro[int] func1(){
    co_yield 45;
    co_yield 46;
    co_yield 47;
    co_return 48;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    auto f1 = func1(); // f1 can be thought of as a handle to the computation.
                       // it's called a coroutine type, a generator to be exact in this case.
    std::cout << f1() << std::endl; // 45 . Numbers are generated lazily, on the fly as we need them
    std::cout << f1() << std::endl; // 46
    std::cout << f1() << std::endl; // 47
    std::cout << f1() << std::endl; // 48
    std::cout << f1() << std::endl; // UB : Function yields three numbers and we
                                   // want to get 4 out of it
    return 0;
}
```

co_yield

```
#include <iostream>

coro[int] func2(){
    int start{1};
    while(true){
        co_yield start++;
    }
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    //func2 generates numbers indefinitely:
    auto f2 = func2(); // f2 is also a handle to the computation

    for(auto i{}; i< 10;++i){ // We just take 10 elements
        std::cout << f2() << std::endl; // 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
    }
    return 0;
}
```

co_return

```
#include <iostream>

coro[int] func3(){
    co_return 55;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    auto f3 = func3();
    std::cout << f3() << std::endl;

    return 0;
}
```


co_await

```
coro[int] do_work() {  
    std::cout << "Doing first thing... " << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{}; // suspension point #1  
    std::cout << "Doing second thing..." << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{}; // Suspension point #2  
    std::cout << "Doing Third thing..." << std::endl;  
}  
  
int main(int argc, char **argv)  
{  
    auto task = do_work(); //Coroutine suspended on call  
  
    task.resume(); // Runs and hits suspension point #1  
    task.resume(); // Runs and hits suspension point #2  
    task.resume(); // Runs and hits End of coroutine.  
    task.resume(); // DISASTER. RESUMING WHAT YOU HAVEN'T PAUSED.  
  
    std::cout << "Done!" << std::endl;  
    return 0;  
}
```



So how do we actually run this code?

A diagram showing three stacked rectangular layers. The top and bottom layers are dark blue, while the middle layer is light green. The text 'C++ user code' is in the top layer, 'Coroutine types' is in the middle layer, and 'Coroutine Infrastructure' is in the bottom layer. To the right of the bottom layer, there are several white diagonal lines.

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

27

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Coroutine Infrastructure

29

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

31

Promise type

Coroutine handle

Awaiter


```

struct CoroType {
    struct promise_type {
        CoroType get_return_object() { return CoroType(this); }
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend() { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend() noexcept { return {}; }
        void unhandled_exception() noexcept
        {
            std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
        }
        void return_void(){};
    };
    CoroType(promise_type* p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(*p)) {}
    ~CoroType()
    {
        std::cout << "Handle destroyed..." << std::endl;
        m_handle.destroy();
    }
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle;
};

```

Method	Description
<code>get_return_object(){} </code>	Return value of coroutine type
<code>initial_suspend(){} </code>	Whether function is suspended upon call
<code>final_suspend(){} </code>	Whether coroutine state is destroyed at last suspension point
<code>Unhandled_exception(){} </code>	Handling exceptions thrown into coroutines
<code>Return_value(value){} </code>	Enables the <code>co_return v; </code> syntax
<code>Return_void(){} </code>	Enables the <code>co_return; </code> syntax
<code>Yield_value(value){} </code>	Enables the <code>co_yield v; </code> syntax

Method	Description
<code>bool await_ready(){}</code>	Whether the <code>co_await</code> expression suspends. If false is returned, then <code>await_suspend</code> is called, to (mostly) suspend
<code>void await_suspend(){}</code>	May suspend the coroutine, or schedule the coroutine state for destruction
<code>void await_resume(){}</code>	May return the result of the entire <code>co_await</code> expression

Awaitables

```
struct suspend_never {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return true; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};  
  
struct suspend_always {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return false; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};
```

Awaiter

It is possible to create your own awaiters, things that can act as operands to the `co_await` operator, by setting up structs/classes that overload the `co_await` operator

Custom Awaitables

```
struct My_Awaitable {  
    auto operator co_await(){ return std::suspend_always{}; }  
};
```

```
CoroType do_work() {  
    std::cout << "Doing first thing..." << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{};  
    std::cout << "Doing second thing..." << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{};  
    std::cout << "Doing Third thing..." << std::endl;  
}
```

- C++ 20 doesn't provide actual usable coroutine types like `CoroType`
- It provides the low level infrastructure to build them (promises, awaitables, coroutine handles,...)
- Building your own coroutine types is not recommended. It's only reserved for hard core, highly experienced library developers who really know what they're doing
- It is expected that C++23 will provide high level coroutine types built into C++, ready to use just by including some headers
- If you want to use them now, there are third party libraries that can help, like `cppcoro` and some others

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co_await

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
Coroutine do_work() {  
    std::cout << "Doing first thing... " << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{};  
    std::cout << "Doing second thing..." << std::endl;  
    co_await std::suspend_always{};  
    std::cout << "Doing Third thing..." << std::endl;  
}
```

Coroutine

C++20

43

Keep in mind

- What we're going to do here works for modern compilers with C++ 20 enabled and support for coroutines
- gcc and msvc have been tested :
 - gcc 10 and gcc 11 require the `-fcoroutines` switch
 - msvc 2019 (version 16.8.3) and upwards don't require any switch
- Online compilers are also a convenient option :
 - <https://wandbox.org> is a good choice

```

struct CoroType {
    struct promise_type {
        CoroType get_return_object() { return CoroType(this); }
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend() { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend() noexcept { return {}; }
        void unhandled_exception() noexcept
        {
            std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
        }
        void return_void(){};
    };
    CoroType(promise_type* p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(*p)) {}
    ~CoroType()
    {
        std::cout << "Handle destroyed..." << std::endl;
        m_handle.destroy();
    }
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle;
};

```

Awaitables

```
struct suspend_never {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return true; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};  
  
struct suspend_always {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return false; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};
```

Putting it all together

```
CoroType do_work() {
    std::cout << "Doing first thing... " << std::endl;
    co_await std::suspend_always{};
    std::cout << "Doing second thing..." << std::endl;
    co_await std::suspend_always{};
    std::cout << "Doing Third thing..." << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    auto task = do_work(); //Coroutine suspended on call
    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    task.m_handle.resume();
    task.m_handle.resume();
    // task.m_handle.resume(); // RECIPE FOR DISASTER. RESUMING WHAT YOU HAVEN'T PAUSED

    std::cout << "Done!" << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

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co_yield

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
CoroType do_work() {  
    co_yield 1;  
    co_yield 2;  
    co_yield 3;  
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

50

```

struct CoroType {
    struct promise_type {
        int m_value;
        CoroType get_return_object() { return this; }
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend() { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend() { return {}; }
        void unhandled_exception() noexcept
        {
            std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
        }
        std::suspend_always yield_value(int val) {
            m_value = val;
            return {};
        }
    };
    CoroType(promise_type* p) : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(*p)) {}
    ~CoroType() { m_handle.destroy(); }
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle;
};

```

```
co_yield 2;
```

```
co_await promise.yield_value(2);
```

Awaitables

```
struct suspend_never {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return true; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};  
  
struct suspend_always {  
    constexpr bool await_ready() const noexcept { return false; }  
    constexpr void await_suspend(coroutine_handle<>) const noexcept {}  
    constexpr void await_resume() const noexcept {}  
};
```

Awaiter

It is possible to create your own awaiters, things that can act as operands to the `co_await` operator, by setting up structs/classes that overload the `co_await` operator

Custom Awaitables

```
struct My_Awaitable {  
    auto operator co_await(){ return std::suspend_always{}; }  
};
```

Putting it all together

```
CoroType do_work() {
    co_yield 1;
    co_yield 2;
    co_yield 3;
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    auto task = do_work(); //Coroutine suspended on call
    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    std::cout << "Done!" << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```


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co_return

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

59

```

struct CoroType {
    struct promise_type {
        int m_value;
        CoroType get_return_object() { return this; }
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend() { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend() { return {}; }
        void unhandled_exception() noexcept
        {
            std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
        }
        std::suspend_always yield_value(int val) {
            m_value = val;
            return {};
        }
        void return_value(int val){
            m_value = val;
        }
        void return_void() {
        }
    };
    CoroType(promise_type* p) : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(*p)) {}
    ~CoroType() { m_handle.destroy(); }
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle;
};

```

Putting it all together

```
CoroType do_work() {
    co_yield 1;
    co_yield 2;
    co_yield 3;
    co_return;
}
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    auto task = do_work(); //Coroutine suspended on call

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;

    task.m_handle(); // This resumes the coroutine. When next suspension point is hit it pauses
    std::cout << "value : " << task.m_handle.promise().m_value << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

- C++ 20 doesn't provide actual usable coroutine types like `generator<T>`
- It provides the low level infrastructure to build them (promises, coroutine frames, coroutine handles,...)
- Building your own coroutine types is not recommended. It's only reserved for hard core, highly experienced library developers who really know what they're doing
- It is expected that C++23 will provide high level coroutine types built into C++, ready to use just by including some headers
- If you want to use them now, there are third party libraries that can help, like `cppcoro`
- Before we use `cppcoro` though, we need to build it and load it into our C++ project
- In the next chapter, we explore basic info and knowledge you need to create and use third party libraries in C++, like `cppcoro`

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Custom coroutine types : Generator


```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

A diagram showing three stacked rectangular layers. The top and bottom layers are dark blue, while the middle layer is light green. The text 'C++ user code' is in the top layer, 'Coroutine types' is in the middle layer, and 'Coroutine Infrastructure' is in the bottom layer. To the right of the bottom layer, there are several white diagonal lines.

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

66

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10;
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
    co_return 40;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

67

```

template <typename T>
struct generator
{
    struct promise_type
    {
        T m_value;
        /* ... */
    };
    explicit generator(promise_type& p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(p)){}
    generator() = default;
    ~generator()
    { ... }
    T operator()() { ... }
private:
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle = nullptr;
};

```

```

struct promise_type
{
    T m_value;

    auto get_return_object() { return generator{ *this }; }
    auto initial_suspend() noexcept { return std::suspend_always{}; }
    auto final_suspend() noexcept { return std::suspend_always{}; }

    void unhandled_exception() noexcept
    {
        std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
    }

    auto yield_value(T const& v)
    {
        m_value = v;
        return std::suspend_always{};
    }

    void return_void() {}
};

```

```

template <typename T>
struct generator
{
    struct promise_type
    {
        ...
    };
    explicit generator(promise_type& p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(p)){}
    generator() = default;
    ~generator()
    {
        if (m_handle)
        {
            m_handle.destroy();
        }
    }
    T operator()() {
        assert(m_handle != nullptr);
        m_handle.resume();
        return (m_handle.promise().m_value);
    }
private:
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle = nullptr;
};

```

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}

generator<int> infinite_number_stream(int start = 0)
{
    auto value = start;
    for (int i = 0;; ++i)
    {
        co_yield value;
        ++value;
    }
}
```

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Third Party Coroutine Types

73

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

74

- Cppcoro
- <https://github.com/Quuxplusone/coro>

```
#include "third_party_coro_type.h"
```

```
unique_generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    std::cout << "generate_numbers starting" << std::endl;
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
    std::cout << "generate_numbers ending" << std::endl;
}
```

```
unique_generator<int> infinite_number_stream(int start = 0)
{
    auto value = start;
    for (int i = 0;; ++i)
    {
        std::cout << "In infinite_number stream..." << std::endl;
        co_yield value;
        ++value;
    }
}

unique_generator<int> range(int first, int last)
{
    while (first != last) {
        co_yield first++;
    }
}
```

```
1 auto g1 = generate_numbers();  
  
2 std::cout << "value : " << g1() << std::endl;  
3 std::cout << "value : " << g1() << std::endl;  
4 std::cout << "value : " << g1() << std::endl;
```

No function call operator in <unique_generator>

Changing the interface of unique_generator

```
template<class Ref, class Value = std::decay_t<Ref>>
class unique_generator {
public:
    /* ... */
    auto value(){
        coro_.resume();
        return coro_.promise().get();
    }
    auto operator()(){
        coro_.resume();
        return coro_.promise().get();
    }
private:
    explicit unique_generator(handle_t coro) noexcept :
        coro_(coro){}
    handle_t coro_;
};

#endif // INCLUDED_CORO_UNIQUE_GENERATOR_H
```


Coroutines : Summary

C++ user code

Coroutine types

Coroutine Infrastructure

```
generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10;
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
    co_return 40;
}
```

generator<T>

C++20

84

- `co_await`
- `co_yield`
- `co_return`

```

template <typename T>
struct generator
{
    struct promise_type
    {
        T m_value;
        /* ... */
    };
    explicit generator(promise_type& p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(p)){}
    generator() = default;
    ~generator()
    { ... }
    T operator()() { ... }
private:
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle = nullptr;
};

```

```

struct promise_type
{
    T m_value;

    auto get_return_object() { return generator{ *this }; }
    auto initial_suspend() noexcept { return std::suspend_always{}; }
    auto final_suspend() noexcept { return std::suspend_always{}; }

    void unhandled_exception() noexcept
    {
        std::rethrow_exception(std::current_exception());
    }

    auto yield_value(T const& v)
    {
        m_value = v;
        return std::suspend_always{};
    }

    void return_void() {}
};

```

```

template <typename T>
struct generator
{
    struct promise_type
    {
        ...
    };
    explicit generator(promise_type& p)
        : m_handle(std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>::from_promise(p)){}
    generator() = default;
    ~generator()
    {
        if (m_handle)
        {
            m_handle.destroy();
        }
    }
    T operator()() {
        assert(m_handle != nullptr);
        m_handle.resume();
        return (m_handle.promise().m_value);
    }
private:
    std::coroutine_handle<promise_type> m_handle = nullptr;
};

```



```

generator<int> generate_numbers()
{
    co_yield 10; // Return 10 and pause
    std::cout << "After stop point #1" << std::endl;

    co_yield 20;
    std::cout << "After stop point #2" << std::endl;

    co_yield 30;
    std::cout << "After stop point #3" << std::endl;
}

generator<int> infinite_number_stream(int start = 0)
{
    auto value = start;
    for (int i = 0;; ++i)
    {
        co_yield value;
        ++value;
    }
}

```

- C++20 doesn't provide actual coroutine types for direct use
- It only provides an infrastructure to build them
- Good coroutine types are hard to build and get right
- It's advised to at least start by using third party coroutine type libraries and only build your own when you REALLY know what you're doing

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