for loop

for vs. while loop

The for Loop vs. the while loop

• Often you will need to execute a sequence of statements a given number of times.

You could use a while loop:

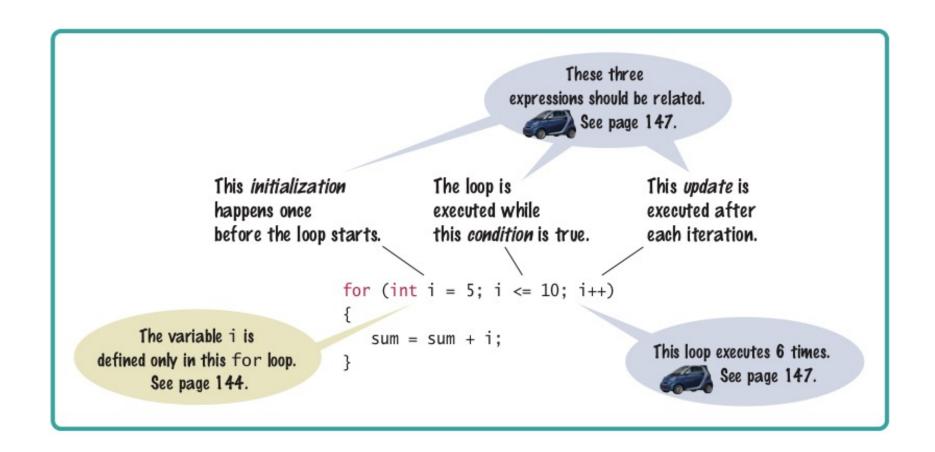
```
num = 1; // Initialize the variable
while (num <= 10) // Check the variable
{
   cout << num << endl;
   num++; // Update the variable
}</pre>
```

The for Loop

• C++ has a statement custom made *for* this sort of processing: the **for** loop.

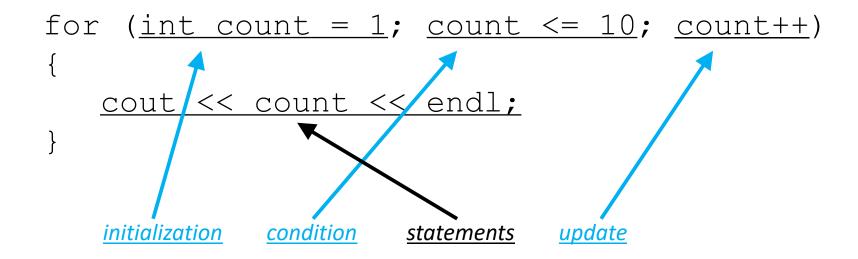
```
for (num = 1; num <= 10; num++)
{
   cout << num << endl;
}</pre>
```

The for Loop Syntax



The for Loop Is Better than while for Certain Things

 Doing something a known number of times or causing a variable to take on a sequence of values is so common, C++ has a statement just for that:



for () loop execution

- The <u>initialization</u> is code that happens once, before the check is made, to set up counting how many times the *statements* will happen. The loop variable may be created here, or before the for() statement.
- The <u>condition</u> is a comparison to test if the loop is done. When this test is false, we skip out of the for(), going on to the next statement.
- The <u>update</u> is code that is executed at the bottom of each iteration of the loop, immediate before re-testing the condition. Usually it is a counter increment or decrement.
- The <u>statements</u> are repeatedly executed until the condition is false. These also are known as the "loop body".

The for Can Count Up or Down

A for loop can count down instead of up:

```
for (int counter = 10; counter >= 0; counter--)...
```

 Notice that in this examples, the loop variable is defined in the initialization (where it really should be!).

```
initialize loop variable i:
                                                  ONLY ONCE!
       while (i < 5)
           cout << i << "
           i++;
                              for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
                                   cout << i <<
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```

```
int i = 0;
        while (i < 5)
                                               loop condition
             cout << i << " ";
             i++;
                                   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
                                        cout << i << " ";
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```

```
int i = 0;
while (i < 5)
   cout << i << "
                          update loop
                          variable i
                   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
                       cout << i <<
```

```
int i = 0;
        while (i < 5)
             cout << i << " ";
             i++;
                                   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
                                        cout << i <<
               loop body
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```

