

What is a function and why do we write main() ?

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In C language, a function is a:

1. block of code
2. having a particular name
3. followed by parenthesis () and
4. containing set of instructions.

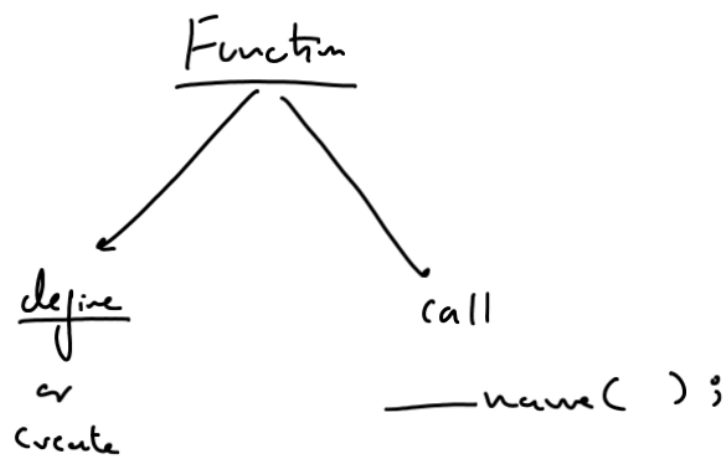
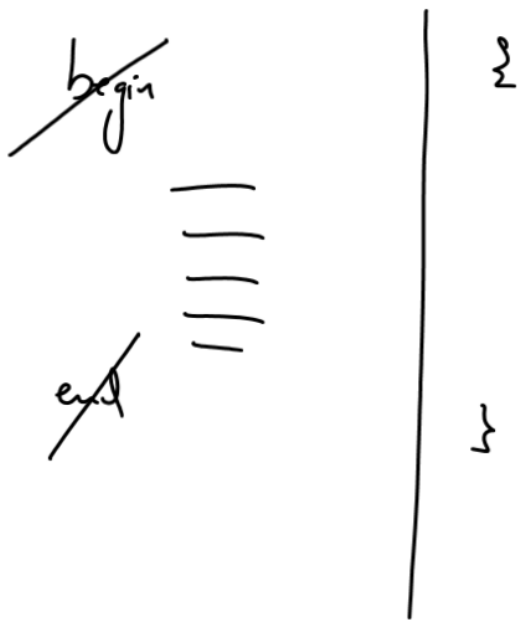
And every C program is a collection of one or more such functions. Amongst these functions, the most important is the function main(). This is because whenever we run a C language program, the execution **always begins from main()** . In other words we can say that main() is the 1st function which gets executed whenever we run a C or C++ program.

Can we compile a C language program without main()?

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Yes, we can compile a C language program even if it is not having the function main(). This is because whenever we compile our program, the compiler starts reading it from 1st line and not from main(). Thus without main() also we can compile the code but we can not execute it.

This is because execution of any program is done by Operating System and this execution always begins from the function main(), so we can say that main() is the entry point for execution by the Operating System.



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