

# **Commenting Code**

COMP16321 – Introduction to Programming 1

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# "Good Code is Self-Documenting!"

Is it True? Yes

Does it mean you should never comment code? No

## The Good, The Bad & The Ugly



## **2 Types of Comments**

**Documentation Comments** 

**Clarification Comments** 

#### **Documentation Comments**

For those who want to consume your work but not read through all of it

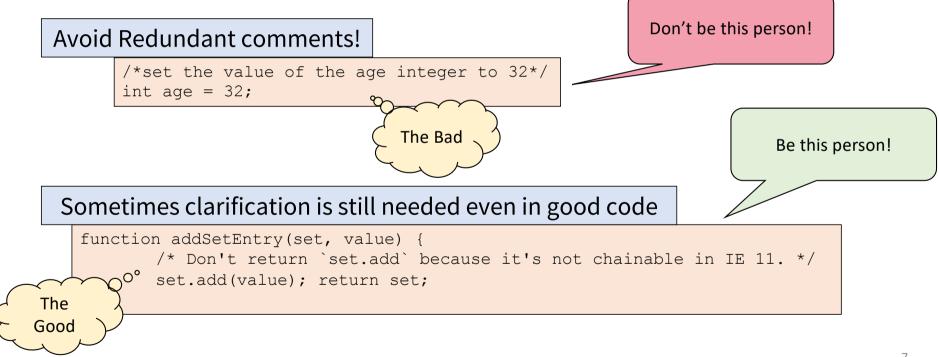
#### **Clarification Comments**

For anyone (including yourself) who may need to maintain, refactor or add to your code

Clarification is Code Smell.

Strive to remove clarification comments by simplifying code

### **Clarification Comments Cont.**



#### **Clarification Comments Cont.**

#### Be helpful to others (humor can help)

/\*\*Dear maintainer: Once you are done trying to 'optimize' this routine, and have realized what a terrible mistake that was, please increment the following counter as a Warning to the next guy:

total\_hours\_wasted\_here = 42\*\*/

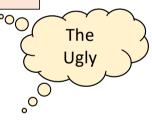
The Good(ish)

Could save others a lot of wasted time

## **Clarification Comments Cont.**

#### Seems harmless enough

/\*This code sucks, you know it and I know it.
Move on and call me an idiot later.\*/



#### Just plain mean

/\* Class used to workaround Gareth being a f\*\*\*\*\*g idiot\*/

# The Big Picture of Being a Programmer

