What is an alias?

Two or more names that refer to a single object in a given scope are said to be

*aliases*.

What is overloading?

A name that can refer to more than one object in a given scope is said to

be *overloaded*.

What is meant by polymorphism?

The term *polymorphic* is from the Greek, meaning “having multiple forms.”

It is applied to code—both data structures and subroutines—that can work with

values of multiple types. For this concept to make sense, the types must generally

have certain characteristics in common, and the code must not depend

on any other characteristics.

What is explicit parametric polymorphism (also known as templates or generics)?

Generics (explicit parametric polymorphism) are usually, though not always,

implemented by creating multiple copies of the polymorphic code, one specialized

for each needed concrete type.

* If the code is written without mention of any specific type and thus can be used transparently with any number of new types, it is called [parametric polymorphism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parametric_polymorphism). In the object-oriented programming community, this is often known as *generics* or [*generic programming*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generic_programming). In the functional programming community, this is often simply called *polymorphism*.