# Windows Forms Control Naming Conventions

Although the Microsoft .NET community does not use prefixes for local or instance variables; it does for variables of most of the basic WinForm Controls. Control naming has been a subject of ongoing debate. In this course, please use the prefixes below.

For controls not listed here, use the same pattern as the listed controls. Retain the prefix that Visual Studio generates and replace the trailing ordinal number with a contextual label. This naming technique is easy to implement as all you have to is backspace over the ordinal number and type your contextual label in its place.

The one exception is for Form controls. Since a Form is a class, we follow the class naming convention of PascalCase capitalization with no prefix.

For controls that are never referred to in your code, like some Labels and Containers, you may use the default name. (although proper naming is encouraged in all cases)

| Control Name | Prefix | Example |
|---|---|---|
| Button | button | buttonCancel |
| Label | label | labelItemPrompt |
| TextBox | textBox | textBoxInterestRate |
| CheckBox | checkBox | checkBoxIncludeTax |
| RadioButton | radioButton | radioButtonPrintAll |
| ListBox | listBox | listBoxCountries |
| ComboBox | comboBox | comboBoxVendors |
| ListView | listView | listViewFileList |
| TreeView | treeView | treeViewDestinations |
| DataGridView | dataGridView | dataGridViewProducts |
| Form | None | MainForm |