
C Programming Training Notes: C Home to C Functions (W3Schools)

1. C Home & Getting Started

C Home (Introduction)

- **What is C?** C is a **general-purpose programming language** created by Dennis Ritchie in 1972. It is highly influential, powerful, and forms the basis for many modern languages (C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, Python, etc.).
- **Why C?** It is used for developing **Operating Systems** (like Windows, Linux), databases, compilers, and hardware devices. It is fast and efficient.

C Get Started (Setup)

- To start writing C, you need a **Text Editor** and a **Compiler** (like GCC). A common development environment is an **Integrated Development Environment (IDE)** such as Code::Blocks or Visual Studio Code.
- **How to Run a C Program:**
 1. Write the code (e.g., `myfirstprog.c`).
 2. Compile the code using a command like `gcc myfirstprog.c`.
 3. Execute the output file (`./a.out` on Linux/macOS, or `a.exe` on Windows).

2. Basic Syntax and Structure

C Program Structure (The `Hello World` Example)

The structure of a basic C program includes:

Component	Example	Description
Header File	<code>#include <stdio.h></code>	Includes the standard I/O library functions.
Main Function	<code>int main() { ... }</code>	The entry point for all C programs. Code inside the curly braces <code>{ }</code> is executed.
Output	<code>printf("Hello World!");</code>	A function to output text to the screen.

Component	Example	Description
Return	<code>return 0;</code>	Indicates that the program executed successfully.

C

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main() {
    printf("Hello World!"); // C Statement
    return 0;
}
```

C Syntax Rules

- **Statements:** Every statement must end with a **semicolon (;)**.
- **Case Sensitivity:** C is **case-sensitive**. `myVar` is different from `myvar`.
- **Code Blocks:** Code blocks are defined by **curly braces ({})**.

C Output (`printf()`)

- The primary function for outputting text is `printf()`.
- To add a new line, use the **newline character:** `\n`.
- Example: `printf("Line 1.\nLine 2.");`

C Comments

- **Single-line comments:** Start with two forward slashes (`//`).
- **Multi-line comments:** Start with `/*` and end with `*/`.

3. Variables, Data Types, and Operators

C Variables

A variable is a container for storing data values.

Type	Syntax	Example
Integer	<code>int variableName = value;</code>	<code>int myNum = 15;</code>
Floating Point	<code>float variableName = value;</code>	<code>float myFloat = 5.99;</code>
Character	<code>char variableName = 'A';</code>	<code>char myLetter = 'D';</code>

Format Specifiers

Used inside `printf()` to display the value of a variable:

Specifier	Data Type	Example
<code>%d</code> or <code>%i</code>	int (Integer)	<code>printf("%d", myNum);</code>
<code>%f</code>	float (Floating Point)	<code>printf("%f", myFloat);</code>
<code>%c</code>	char (Character)	<code>printf("%c", myLetter);</code>

C Data Types

Type	Size	Description
<code>int</code>	2 or 4 bytes	Stores whole numbers (integers).
<code>float</code>	4 bytes	Stores fractional numbers (decimals), 6-7 decimal digits.
<code>double</code>	8 bytes	Stores fractional numbers, 15 decimal digits.
<code>char</code>	1 byte	Stores a single character/letter.

C Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

Type	Operator	Description	Example
Arithmetic	<code>+</code> , <code>-</code> , <code>*</code> , <code>/</code> , <code>%</code>	Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Modulus.	<code>x = 5 + 3;</code>

Type	Operator	Description	Example
Assignment	=, +=, -=	Assigns a value; combines operation and assignment.	x += 3; (Same as x = x + 3;)
Comparison	==, !=, >, <, >=, <=	Compares two values; returns 1 (True) or 0 (False).	x == 5
Logical	&&, ^		, !

4. Control Flow (Conditions and Loops)

C If...Else

Used to execute different code blocks based on a **Boolean** condition.

```
C
// Basic If
if (condition) {
    // block of code to be executed if the condition is True
}

// If...Else
if (condition) {
    // True block
} else {
    // False block
}

// If...Else If...Else
if (condition1) {
    // Executes if condition1 is true
} else if (condition2) {
    // Executes if condition1 is false AND condition2 is true
} else {
    // Executes if all conditions are false
}
```

C Switch

Used to select one of many code blocks to be executed. It evaluates an expression once.

```
C
switch (expression) {
    case 1:
        // code block 1
        break; // Stops the execution inside the switch block
    case 2:
```

```

        // code block 2
        break;
    default:
        // code block that runs if no case matches
}

```

C Loops (While and For)

Loops execute a block of code repeatedly as long as a specified condition is met.

While Loop

```

C
int i = 0;
while (i < 5) {
    printf("%d\n", i);
    i++; // Increment the counter
}

```

For Loop

The **For Loop** is typically used when you know exactly how many times you want to loop.

```

C
for (statement 1; statement 2; statement 3) {
    // code block to be executed
}

// Statement 1: executed once before the loop starts (initialization).
// Statement 2: defines the condition for running the loop.
// Statement 3: executed every time after the loop code has been executed
(increment/decrement).

for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d\n", i);
}

```

Break and Continue

- **break:** Jumps out of a loop or a `switch` statement entirely.
- **continue:** Skips the current iteration of the loop and moves to the next one.

5. Arrays, Strings, and Pointers

C Arrays

Arrays are used to store multiple values of the **same data type** in a single variable.

- **Declaration:** Specify the type, name, and size.

```
int myNumbers[4];
```

- **Initialization:**

```
int myNumbers[] = {25, 50, 75, 100};
```

- Access: Array indices start at 0.

```
printf("%d", myNumbers[0]); // Output: 25
```

C Strings

A string is a sequence of characters stored as an array of characters.

- Declaration:

```
char greetings[] = "Hello";
```

- The string is terminated by a special character: the **null character** (`\0`).
- **String Functions:** Must include `<string.h>`.
 - `strlen(string)`: Returns the length of the string.
 - `strcpy(destination, source)`: Copies a string.
 - `strcat(string1, string2)`: Concatenates (joins) two strings.
 - `strcmp(string1, string2)`: Compares two strings (returns 0 if equal).

C Pointers

A **pointer** is a variable that stores the **memory address** of another variable.

Operator	Name	Description
&	Address-of Operator	Returns the memory address of a variable.
*	Dereference Operator	Returns the value stored at the memory address.

C

```
int myAge = 43;           // Variable
int* ptr = &myAge;       // Pointer variable stores the address of myAge

// Output the value (43)
printf("%d\n", myAge);

// Output the address (e.g., 0x7ffe5367e044)
printf("%p\n", &myAge); // Using %p format specifier

// Output the value using the pointer (Dereference: 43)
printf("%d\n", *ptr);
```

6. C Functions

What are C Functions?

A function is a block of code that only runs when it is called. Functions are used to:

1. **Reuse Code:** Define the code once and use it multiple times.
2. **Modularize Code:** Break down a large program into smaller, manageable parts.

Function Declaration and Definition

Part	Description
Declaration (or Prototype)	Tells the compiler the function's name, return type, and parameters. (Optional if defined before <code>main</code>).
Definition	Contains the actual body of the function.

Example:

```
C
// 1. Function Declaration (outside main)
void myFunction();

// 2. Main function (caller)
int main() {
    myFunction(); // Call the function
    return 0;
}

// 3. Function Definition
void myFunction() {
    printf("I just got executed!");
}
```

Function Parameters

Information can be passed to functions as **parameters** (or arguments).

```
C
// Function Declaration with parameters
void printName(char name[]);

// Function Definition
void printName(char name[]) {
    printf("Hello %s\n", name);
}

// Calling the function
int main() {
    printName("Liam"); // Output: Hello Liam
    return 0;
}
```

Return Values

To return a value, use a data type other than `void` and the `return` keyword.

```
C
// Function returns an integer (int)
int mySum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int main() {
    int result = mySum(5, 3);
    printf("%d", result); // Output: 8
    return 0;
}
```

C Programming Training Notes: C Home to C Functions (W3Schools)

1. C Fundamentals and Basic Syntax

C Home (Introduction)

- **What is C?** C is a **general-purpose programming language** created by Dennis Ritchie in 1972. It is highly influential, powerful, and forms the basis for many modern languages (C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, Python, etc.).
- **Why C?** It is used for developing **Operating Systems** (like Windows, Linux), databases, compilers, and hardware devices. It is fast and efficient.

C Get Started (Setup)

- To start writing C, you need a **Text Editor** and a **Compiler** (like GCC). A common development environment is an **Integrated Development Environment (IDE)** such as Code::Blocks or Visual Studio Code.
 - **How to Run a C Program:**
 1. Write the code (e.g., `myfirstprog.c`).
 2. Compile the code using a command like `gcc myfirstprog.c`.
 3. Execute the output file (`./a.out` on Linux/macOS, or `a.exe` on Windows).
-

2. Basic Syntax and Structure

C Program Structure (The `Hello World` Example)

The structure of a basic C program includes:

Component	Example	Description
Header File	<code>#include <stdio.h></code>	Includes the standard I/O library functions.
Main Function	<code>int main() { ... }</code>	The entry point for all C programs. Code inside the curly braces {} is executed.
Output	<code>printf("Hello World!");</code>	A function to output text to the screen.
Return	<code>return 0;</code>	Indicates that the program executed successfully.

C

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main() {
    printf("Hello World!"); // C Statement
    return 0;
}
```

C Syntax Rules

- **Statements:** Every statement must end with a **semicolon (;)**.
- **Case Sensitivity:** C is **case-sensitive**. `myVar` is different from `myvar`.
- **Code Blocks:** Code blocks are defined by **curly braces ({})**.

C Output (`printf()`)

- The primary function for outputting text is `printf()`.
- To add a new line, use the **newline character: \n**.
- Example: `printf("Line 1.\nLine 2.");`

C Comments

- **Single-line comments:** Start with two forward slashes (`//`).
- **Multi-line comments:** Start with `/*` and end with `*/`.

3. Variables, Data Types, and Operators

C Variables: The Lifecycle 💡

Understanding the difference between Declaration, Initialization, and Assignment is essential.

Action	Description	Examples
Declaration	Reserving memory by giving a type and a name . The variable has no known value yet.	<pre>int a;</pre> <pre>char k;</pre> <pre>char name[30];</pre>
Initialization	Declaration + giving the variable its first value at the same time.	<pre>int a = 10;</pre> <pre>char k = 'M';</pre> <pre>char name[30] = "Mahalakshmy";</pre>
Assignment	Changing the value of an already declared variable.	<pre>a = 50;</pre> <pre>k = 'L';</pre>

Note: While C does not have a native `string` type, it is common to use `char[]` to represent strings, as shown above.

C Data Types

Type	Size	Description
<code>int</code>	2 or 4 bytes	Stores whole numbers (integers).
<code>float</code>	4 bytes	Stores fractional numbers (decimals), 6-7 decimal digits.
<code>double</code>	8 bytes	Stores fractional numbers, 15 decimal digits.

Type	Size	Description
char	1 byte	Stores a single character/letter.

C Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

Type	Operator	Description	Example
Arithmetic	+, -, *, /, %	Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Modulus.	x = 5 + 3;
Assignment	=, +=, -=	Assigns a value; combines operation and assignment.	x += 3; (Same as x = x + 3;)
Comparison	==, !=, >, <, >=, <=	Compares two values; returns 1 (True) or 0 (False).	x == 5
Logical	&&, ^		, !

4. Control Flow (Conditions and Loops)

C If...Else

Used to execute different code blocks based on a **Boolean** condition.

```
C
// If...Else If...Else Structure
if (condition1) {
    // Executes if condition1 is true
} else if (condition2) {
    // Executes if condition1 is false AND condition2 is true
} else {
    // Executes if all conditions are false
}
```

C Switch

Used to select one of many code blocks to be executed based on a single expression.

C

```
switch (expression) {
    case 1:
        // code block 1
        break; // Important: Stops the execution inside the switch block
    case 2:
        // code block 2
        break;
    default:
        // code block that runs if no case matches
}
```

C Loops (While and For)

While Loop

C

```
int i = 0;
while (i < 5) {
    printf("%d\n", i);
    i++; // Increment the counter
}
```

For Loop

The **For Loop** is typically used when you know exactly how many times you want to loop.

C

```
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d\n", i);
}
// Statement 1: Initialization (int i = 0)
// Statement 2: Condition (i < 5)
// Statement 3: Increment/Decrement (i++)
```

Break and Continue

- **break:** Jumps out of a loop or a `switch` statement entirely.
 - **continue:** Skips the current iteration of the loop and moves to the next one.
-

5. Arrays, Strings, and Pointers

C Arrays

Arrays are used to store multiple values of the **same data type** in a single variable.

- Initialization:

```
int myNumbers[] = {25, 50, 75, 100};
```
- Access: Array indices start at 0.

```
printf("%d", myNumbers[0]); // Output: 25
```

C Strings

A string is a sequence of characters stored as an array of characters, terminated by the **null character** (`\0`).

- Declaration:

```
char greetings[] = "Hello";
```

- **String Functions:** Must include `<string.h>`. Common functions include `strlen()`, `strcpy()`, `strcat()`, and `strcmp()`.

C Pointers

A **pointer** is a variable that stores the **memory address** of another variable.

Operator	Name	Description
&	Address-of Operator	Returns the memory address of a variable.
*	Dereference Operator	Returns the value stored at the memory address.

C

```
int myAge = 43;          // Variable
int* ptr = &myAge;      // Pointer variable stores the address of myAge

// Output the value using the pointer (Dereference: 43)
printf("%d\n", *ptr);
```

6. C Functions

What are C Functions?

A function is a block of code that only runs when it is called. Functions are used for **code reuse** and **modularity**.

Function Declaration and Definition

Part	Description
Declaration (or Prototype)	Tells the compiler the function's name, return type, and parameters.
Definition	Contains the actual body of the function.

Example:

```
C
// 1. Declaration
void myFunction();

// 2. Definition
void myFunction() {
    printf("I just got executed!");
}
```

C Function Parameters or Arguments 🍷

Parameters are variables defined in the function signature that accept values when the function is called.

We pass only the variable name and its value as function(s) or method(s) parameter(s) or argument(s).

When you call a function, the values you pass are used to **initialize** the local parameter variables within the function's scope.

Example of Passing Arguments:

```
C
// Function Declaration/Definition with parameters
void printName(char name_arg[], int age_arg) {
    // name_arg and age_arg are the parameter variables
    printf("Hello %s, you are %d\n", name_arg, age_arg);
}

int main() {
    // Variables being passed (arguments)
    char student_name[] = "Mahalakshmy";
    int student_age = 25;

    // Call the function, passing the values
    printName(student_name, student_age);

    // Output: Hello Mahalakshmy, you are 25
    return 0;
}
```

Return Values

To return a value, specify a data type (e.g., `int`) instead of `void` and use the `return` keyword.

C

```
// Function returns an integer (int)
int mySum(int x, int y) {
    return x + y;
}

int main() {
    int result = mySum(5, 3);
    printf("%d", result); // Output: 8
    return 0;
}
```