

## 4.11 Enumerations

Some variables only need store a small set of named values. For example, a variable representing a traffic light need only store values named GREEN, YELLOW, or RED. An **enumeration type** declares a name for a new type and possible values for that type.

Construct 4.11.1: Enumeration type.

```
enum identifier {enumerator1, enumerator2, ...};
```

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The items within the braces ("enumerators") are integer constants automatically assigned an integer value, with the first item being 0, the second 1, and so on. An enumeration declares a new data type that can be used like the built-in types int, char, etc.

Figure 4.11.1: Enumeration example.

```
User commands: n (next), r  
(red), q (quit).
```

```
Red light n  
Green light n  
Yellow light n  
Red light n  
Green light r  
Red light n  
Green light n  
Yellow light n  
Red light q  
Quit program.
```

```

#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

/* Manual controller for traffic light */
int main() {
    enum LightState {LS_RED, LS_GREEN, LS_YELLOW,
LS_DONE};
    LightState lightVal;
    char userCmd;

    lightVal = LS_RED;
    userCmd = '-';

    cout << "User commands: n (next), r (red), q
(quit)." << endl << endl;

    lightVal = LS_RED;
    while (lightVal != LS_DONE) {

        if (lightVal == LS_GREEN) {
            cout << "Green light ";
            cin >> userCmd;
            if (userCmd == 'n') { // Next
                lightVal = LS_YELLOW;
            }
        }
        else if (lightVal == LS_YELLOW) {
            cout << "Yellow light ";
            cin >> userCmd;
            if (userCmd == 'n') { // Next
                lightVal = LS_RED;
            }
        }
        else if (lightVal == LS_RED) {
            cout << "Red light ";
            cin >> userCmd;
            if (userCmd == 'n') { // Next
                lightVal = LS_GREEN;
            }
        }

        if (userCmd == 'r') { // Force immediate red
            lightVal = LS_RED;
        }
        else if (userCmd == 'q') { // Quit
            lightVal = LS_DONE;
        }
    }

    cout << "Quit program." << endl;

    return 0;
}

```

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The program declares a new enumeration type named `LightState`. The program then declares a new variable `lightVal` of that type. The loop updates `lightVal` based on the user's input.

The example illustrates the idea of a **state machine** that is sometimes used in programs, especially programs that interact with physical objects, wherein the program moves among

particular situations ("states") depending on input; see [What is: State machine](#).

Because different enumerated types might use some of the same names, e.g., `enum Colors {RED, PURPLE, BLUE, GREEN};` might also appear in the same program, the program above follows the practice of prepending a distinguishing prefix, in this case "LS" (for Light State).

One might ask why the light variable wasn't simply declared as a string, and then compared with strings "GREEN", "RED", and "YELLOW". Enumerations are safer. If using a string, an assignment like `light = "ORANGE"` would not yield a compiler error, even though ORANGE is not a valid light color. Likewise, `light == "YELOW"` would not yield a compiler error, even though YELLOW is misspelled.

One could instead declare constant strings like `const string LS_GREEN = "GREEN";` or even integer values like `const int LS_GREEN = 0;` and then use those constants in the code, but an enumeration is clearer, requires less code, and is less prone to error.

Note: Each enumerator by default is assigned an integer value of 0, 1, 2, etc. However, a programmer can assign a specific value to any enumerator. Ex:

```
enum TvChannels {TC_CBS = 2, TC_NBC = 5, TC_ABC = 7};
```

**PARTICIPATION  
ACTIVITY**

4.11.1: Enumeration syntax.



1) Which of the following declares a new enumeration type named CarGear, with PARK, REVERSE, and DRIVE?



- ☐ `enum CarGear (PARK, REVERSE, DRIVE);`
- ☐ `enum CarGear {PARK, REVERSE, DRIVE}`
- ☐ `enum CarGear {PARK, REVERSE, DRIVE};`
- ☐ `CarGear {PARK, REVERSE, DRIVE};`

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4.11.2: Enumerations.



1) Declare a new enumeration type named HvacStatus with three



named values HVAC\_OFF, AC\_ON, FURNACE\_ON, in that order.

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

- 2) Declare a variable of the enumeration type HvacStatus named systemStatus.

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

- 3) Assign AC\_ON to the variable systemStatus.

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

- 4) What is the integer value of systemStatus after the following?  
`systemStatus = FURNACE_ON;`

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

- 5) Given `enum TvChannels {TC_CBS = 2, TC_NBC = 5, TC_ABC = 7};`, what does `cout << TC_ABC;` output?

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)[Feedback?](#)**CHALLENGE  
ACTIVITY**

4.11.1: Enumerations: Grocery items.



Print either "Fruit", "Drink", or "Unknown" (followed by a newline) depending on the value of userItem. Print "Unknown" (followed by a newline) if the value of userItem does not match any of the defined options. For example, if userItem is GR\_APPLES, output should be:

**Fruit**

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3
4 int main() {
5     enum GroceryItem {GR_APPLES, GR_BANANAS, GR_JUICE, GR_WATER};
6     GroceryItem userItem;
7
8     userItem = GR_APPLES;
9
10    /* Your solution goes here */
11    if(userItem == GR_APPLES || userItem == GR_BANANAS)
12    {
13        cout << "Fruit" << endl;
14    } else if (userItem == GR_JUICE || userItem == GR_WATER){
15        cout << "Drink" << endl;
16    } else{
17        cout << "Unknown" << endl;
18    }
19
20    return 0;
21 }
```

**Run**

✓ All tests passed

✓ Testing with userItem = GR\_APPLES

Your output

✓ Testing with userItem = GR\_JUICE

Your output

✓ Testing with userItem = (GroceryItem)5

Your output

[Feedback?](#)

CHALLENGE  
ACTIVITY

## 4.11.2: Soda machine with enums.



Complete the code provided to add the appropriate amount to totalDeposit.

```
7   int userInput;
8
9   totalDeposit = 0;
10
11  cout << "Add coin: 0 (add 25), 1 (add 10), 2 (add 5).  ";
12  cin >> userInput;
13
14  if (userInput == ADD_QUARTER) {
15      totalDeposit = totalDeposit + 25;
16  }
17
18  /* Your solution goes here */
19  else if (userInput == ADD_DIME){
20      totalDeposit = totalDeposit + 10;
21  }else if (userInput == ADD_NICKEL){
22      totalDeposit = totalDeposit + 5;
23  }
24
25  else {
26      cout << "Invalid coin selection." << endl;
27  }
28
```

**Run**

✓ All tests passed

✓ Testing for userInput = 0

Your value

✓ Testing for userInput = 1

Your value

✓ Testing for userInput = 2

Your value

✓ Testing for userInput = 5

Your value

[Feedback?](#)

