

Structure, Union, and Enum in C++

1. Structure (**struct**)

- A **structure** is a user-defined data type that groups different data types together under one name.
- Each member of a structure has its own memory.
- **Syntax:**

```
struct Student {  
    int rollNo;  
    char name[50];  
    float marks;  
};
```

Key Points:

- Members are **stored in separate memory locations**.
- Total memory = sum of sizes of all members.
- Access members using `.` operator:

```
Student s1;  
s1.rollNo = 101;  
s1.marks = 88.5;
```

2. Union (**union**)

- A **union** is also a user-defined data type but with a key difference:
 - **All members share the same memory location.**
- Only **one member can hold a value at a time**.
- **Syntax:**

```
union Data {  
    int intVal;  
    float floatVal;  
    char charVal;  
};
```

Key Points:

- Memory allocated = size of the **largest member**.
- Changing one member's value affects the others.
- Access:

```
Data d;  
d.intVal = 10;  
d.floatVal = 12.5; // overwrites intVal
```

3. Enumeration (**enum**)

- An **enum** is a user-defined type consisting of a set of named integral constants.

- Useful for making code more readable.
- Syntax:

```
enum Color { Red, Green, Blue };
```

Key Points:

- Default values start from 0, 1, 2...
- You can assign custom values:

```
enum Weekday { Mon = 1, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun };
```

- Access:

```
Color c = Green;    // c = 1
Weekday w = Fri;    // w = 5
```

Difference Between Structure and Union

| Feature | Structure | Union |
|---------|---|---|
| Memory | Each member has its own storage | All members share the same memory |
| Size | Sum of all members | Size of the largest member |
| Usage | Used when multiple values needed together | Used when only one value needed at a time |

Summary:

- **Structure** → group different data, all active together.
- **Union** → save memory, only one member active at a time.
- **Enum** → define symbolic names for integral values.