

Lambda Expressions

Lambda expression: an anonymous function.

Callback: A subroutine, passed into a library, that allows the library to "call back" into the main program when appropriate.

The term "lambda expression" comes from the **lambda calculus**, a formal notation for functional programming.

In functional programming languages, lambda expressions make it easy to manipulate functions as values—to combine them in various ways to create new functions on the fly. This sort of manipulation is less common in imperative languages, lambda expressions can help encourage code reuse and generality. Examples of callbacks include comparison operator passed into a sorting routine, a predicate used to filter elements of a collection, or a handler to be called in response to some future event.