# The Task

Write a program to store information about yourself. The information should include:

1. Your name
2. Your height
3. Your address
4. Your telephone number
5. Whether or not you have an allergy.

A summary of this information should be printed out to the screen.

**Where do you start?** As discussed last lesson you start with clarifying the problem. It looks straight forward at first, but actually there are many decisions to be made.

## Clarify the problem

Is height to be in metres, centimetres or millimetres?

Is address to be stored as one item, or broken up into street number and street?

Can you assume the reader (user) will know which country? Which city?

Do you want to store the type of allergy, or just that there are some?

How should the data look when it is displayed?

Decide the answers to these questions and any others you come up with.

## Design a solution / algorithm

What data needs to be stored?

What names will you use for these variables?

What data type will they be stored as?

## Code the algorithm as a program

Don’t try and code a program all at once. Programs should be coded in pieces, testing as you go (make and display one variable and test if it works before you make the next one). Sometimes these tests will make you realise that your algorithm is incorrect, and you need to go back, plan again, create a new algorithm, and revise your code.

## Test the program

Once your program is complete there should be a thorough final testing process (usually for more complex programs).

## Document the program.

Imagine being someone else looking at your output. Will they understand it? Is your data labelled clearly? Correctly?

Imagine being someone who is trying to understand your code. Are the variable names (identifiers) sensible and descriptive?

Is there a block comment at the top saying what the purpose of the program is? Are any tricky or unusual bits commented?

Think about coming back to your code later, when things may have changed. How easy is it to modify your code to reflect those changes? This will become more important as your programs get more complex.