

Date:.....

Item 27: Minimise Casting.

→ The rule of C++ are designed to guarantee that type errors are impossible & if we do, we get compile time errors unless we apply casting.

→ C++ offers 4 new casts

① `const-cast <T>(expression)`

used to cast away constness of objects.

② Dynamic Cast

used to perform safe downcasting i.e. to determine whether an object is of a particular type in an inheritance hierarchy

③ Reinterpret-Cast

intended for low level cast e.g. casting a pointer to an int. Such casts should be rare.

④ Static-Cast

force implicit conversions. (eg. non-const object to const object, int to double)

void * pointers to typed ptrs, pointer-to-base to ptr-to-derived.
but not cost to non-const object only
const-cast can do that.

⇒ Old style cast continue to be legal
but we should prefer new style bcz

- ① easier to identify
- ② narrowly specified purpose of each cast

⇒ we can use old-style cast when we want to call explicit ctor to pass an object to a function.

```
class Widget
{ public:
    explicit Widget(int size);
    ...
};
```

```
void doSomething(const Widget &w);
```

⇒ doSomething(Widget(15)); // old style & better

⇒ doSomething(static_cast<Widget>(15));

// static cast

The problem with the above code is that the cast does not invoke that function on the current object i.e. cast creates a temporary copy of the base class part of `*this`, suppose there are any modification done to object in base class function, `onResize` will modify the copy of base class part `*this` and not the current object.

Now suppose special window `onResize` function also does some modification to current obj, then, current object will have changes of that, but it will not have changes of base function.

Instead, we can use.

```
virtual void onResize() {
    Window::onResize();
}
};
```


Dynamic cast.

→ When we want to perform derived class operations on what we believe to be derived class object, but we have only a ptr or reference to base class which to manipulate object.

→ If we ^{want} have a funcn in derived class only, instead of doing dynamic cast make the funcn virtual in base class.

Coz C++ generates code that's big & slow in dynamic-cast.

* Avoid cast whenever possible

* When casting is necessary, hide it inside a funcn. Clients can call that instead of ~~was~~ putting cast in their own code.