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Item 20: Prefer pass by Reference to const
to pass by value.

Consider following example.

```
class Person {  
    public:  
        Person();  
        virtual ~Person();  
        ...  
    private:  
        string name;  
        string address;  
};
```

```
class Student: public Person {  
    public:  
        Student();  
        ~Student();  
        ...  
    private:  
        string schoolName;  
        string schoolAddress;  
};
```


now consider a functn

```
bool validateStudent(Student s);
```

```
Student s1;
```

```
bool ok = validateStudent(s1);
```

⇒ Student copy ctor called to initialize parameter s from $s1$.

⇒ s is destroyed when `validateStudent` return

The order of events are.

⇒ Person ctor called.

⇒ Student copy ctor

⇒ student has two string objects,
ctor of 2 string objects

⇒ ctor of two string of Person also

⇒ ctor of 4 string object of Person & Student

⇒ ctor of Person & Student

⇒ ctor of Person

6 ctor & 6 destructor called if we pass by value.

to bypass all ctor & dctor pass by reference to const

bool validateStudent (const Student &s);

⇒ No ctor & dctor are called

⇒ Const is used otherwise caller would have to worry about validateStudent making changes to student object passed.

In pass by value, another copy of object is created so there is no fear of copy/constantness but in pass by reference better to use const.

⇒ Also if derived class object is passed by value to base class object slicing ~~no~~ will happen.

For example →

Class Window

{ public:

string name() const;

virtual void display() const;

};


```

Class WindowWithScrollBars {
    public:
        virtual void display() const;
};

```

```

void printNameAndDisplay(Window W)
{
    cout << W.name();
    W.display();
}

```

// object slicing

If we call .

```

WindowWithScrollBars wwsb;
printNameAndDisplay(wwsb);

```

The call to display inside printNameAndDisplay will always call Window::display.

hence wwsb will be sliced off.

⇒ all this becoz references are implemented as pointers.

```

void printNameAndDisplay(const Window &W)

```

// won't be sliced.

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If we have object of built in type, then passing by value is better than pass by reference. Since it is small.

also STL iterators & function object types.

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end.