Friend Keyword Solutions

Friend Functions and Classes

- What does it mean for a function to be a friend of a class?
  - The friend function has access to all members of the class

- What does it mean for another class to be a friend of a class?
  - All the member functions of the friend class have access to all members of the class

- How can we declare a function or a class as a friend?
  - Declare the friend function or class in the "befriended" class
  - Put the "friend" keyword in front of its declaration

Avoiding the friend keyword

- Explain why some programmers dislike the friend keyword
  - It gives the "friend" unrestricted access to all the data members and member functions in the class, not just the ones it needs

- Suggest a way in which the friend keyword can be avoided
  - The class can provide a public member function which does the work without exposing any internal details
  - This public member function is called by external functions

- Write a simple program to demonstrate your solution