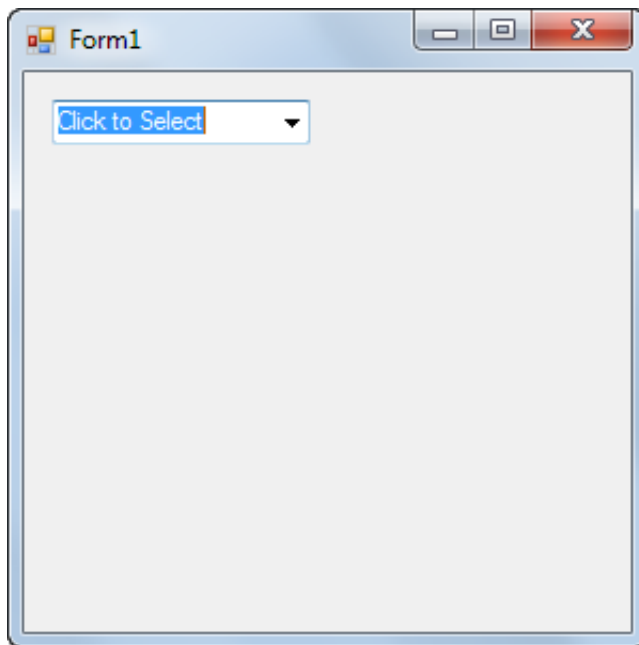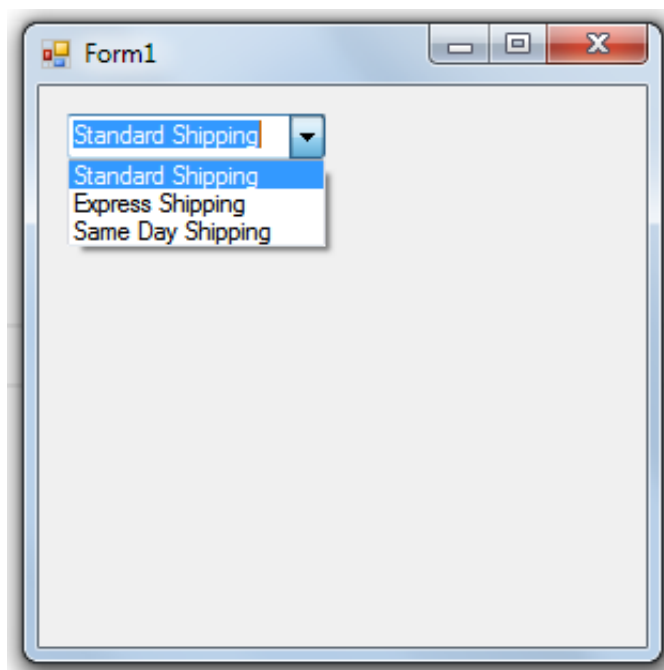# Combo Boxes

Combo Boxes are similar in function to Radio Buttons. They allow the user to choose one item from a list of several choices. When you select one item, any previously selected item becomes un-selected.Only one item in the list may be selected. A Combo Box is a combination of a TextBox and a ListBox control. Only one list item is displayed at one time in a ComboBox and other available items are loaded in a drop down list.

The figure here shows a ComboBox on a Form. The text shown in the TextBox is defined in the Text property of the ComboBox.

The items in the PullDown List are defined in the Items Property. This figure shows a list for a ComboBox.

If you have a ComboBox named `comboBox1` you can get the text of the selected item by writing
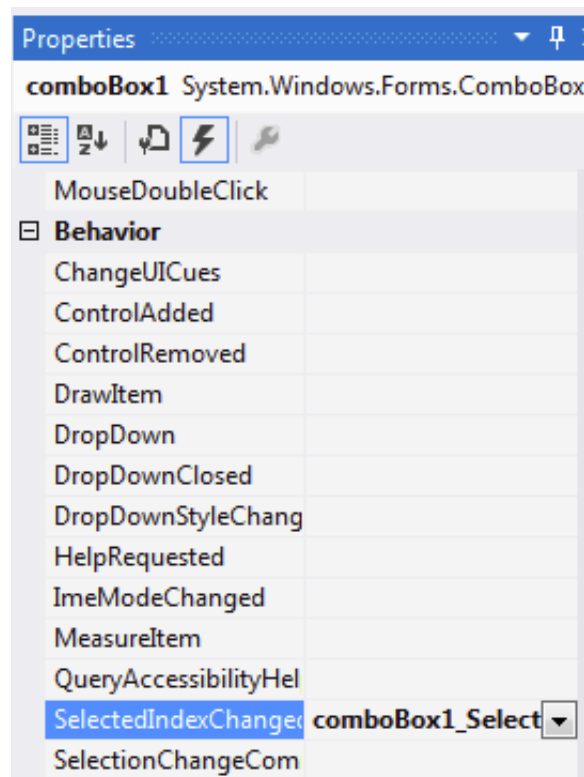
```
string itemText = comboBox1.Text;
```

You can also get the index into the list of selections by writing

```
int selectedItem = comboBox1.SelectedIndex;
```

The index of the selected item is stored in the SelectedIndex property of the ComboBox.

Handling the SelectedIndexChanged Event

When you select one of the items in a ComboBox, that item appears in the TextBox part of the ComboBox and a SelectedIndexChanged event is generated. Create the skeleton for a SelectedIndexChanged event handler by selecting the ComboBox. Then in the properties window click on the lightning bolt to see a list of possible events. Double click on SelectedIndexChanged.

Here is an example of a SelectedIndexChanged event handler:

```
private void comboBox1_SelectedIndexChanged(object
sender, EventArgs e)
{
    string selectedItem = comboBox1.Text;
    MessageBox.Show("You selected " +
selectedItem);
```

}