

# Including Header Files

The first step in using libraries is to include the header files. Let's find out how.

The preprocessor includes the file, following the `#include` statement. That is most of the time a header file. The header files will be enclosed in angular brackets:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
```



## **i Specify all necessary header files**

The compiler is free to add additional headers to the header files. So your program may have all necessary headers although you didn't specify all of them. It's not recommended to rely on this feature. All needed headers should always be explicitly specified. Otherwise, a compiler upgrade or code porting may provoke a compilation error.

In the next lesson, I will discuss in detail the second step of using applications in C++ Standard Library – using namespaces.