If `const` is present, the compiler will check that no assignment to an element of `a` appears in the body of `find_largest`.

- The time required to pass an array to a function doesn't depend on the size of the array. There's no penalty for passing a large array, since no copy of the array is made.
- An array parameter can be declared as a pointer if desired. For example, `find_largest` could be defined as follows:

```
int find_largest(int *a, int n)
{
  ...
}
```

Declaring `a` to be a pointer is equivalent to declaring it to be an array; the compiler treats the declarations as though they were identical.

Q&A

Although declaring a *parameter* to be an array is the same as declaring it to be a pointer, the same isn't true for a *variable*. The declaration

```
int a[10];
```

causes the compiler to set aside space for 10 integers. In contrast, the declaration

```
int *a;
```

causes the compiler to allocate space for a pointer variable. In the latter case, `a` is not an array; attempting to use it as an array can have disastrous results. For example, the assignment

```
*a = 0;    /*** WRONG ***/
```

will store 0 where `a` is pointing. Since we don't know where `a` is pointing, the effect on the program is undefined.

- A function with an array parameter can be passed an array "slice"—a sequence of consecutive elements. Suppose that we want `find_largest` to locate the largest element in some portion of an array `b`, say elements `b[5]`, ..., `b[14]`. When we call `find_largest`, we'll pass it the address of `b[5]` and the number `10`, indicating that we want `find_largest` to examine 10 array elements, starting at `b[5]`:

```
largest = find_largest(&b[5], 10);
```

Using a Pointer as an Array Name

If we can use an array name as a pointer, will C allow us to subscript a pointer as though it were an array name? By now, you'd probably expect the answer to be yes, and you'd be right. Here's an example: