

Number has two members, `kind` and `u`. The value of `kind` will be either `INT_KIND` or `DOUBLE_KIND`.

Each time we assign a value to a member of `u`, we'll also change `kind` to remind us which member of `u` we modified. For example, if `n` is a `Number` variable, an assignment to the `i` member of `u` would have the following appearance:

```
n.kind = INT_KIND;
n.u.i = 82;
```

Notice that assigning to `i` requires that we first select the `u` member of `n`, then the `i` member of `u`.

When we need to retrieve the number stored in a `Number` variable, `kind` will tell us which member of the union was the last to be assigned a value. The `print_number` function can take advantage of this capability:

```
void print_number(Number n)
{
    if (n.kind == INT_KIND)
        printf("%d", n.u.i);
    else
        printf("%g", n.u.d);
}
```




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It's the program's responsibility to change the tag field each time an assignment is made to a member of the union.

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## 16.5 Enumerations

In many programs, we'll need variables that have only a small set of meaningful values. A Boolean variable, for example, should have only two possible values: "true" and "false." A variable that stores the suit of a playing card should have only four potential values: "clubs," "diamonds," "hearts," and "spades." The obvious way to deal with such a variable is to declare it as an integer and have a set of codes that represent the possible values of the variable:

```
int s;    /* s will store a suit */
...
s = 2;    /* 2 represents "hearts" */
```

Although this technique works, it leaves much to be desired. Someone reading the program can't tell that `s` has only four possible values, and the significance of 2 isn't immediately apparent.

Using macros to define a suit "type" and names for the various suits is a step in the right direction: