

25.6 The `<wctype.h>` Header (C99)

Wide-Character Classification and Mapping Utilities

`<ctype.h>` header ► 23.5

The `<wctype.h>` header is the wide-character version of the `<ctype.h>` header. `<ctype.h>` provides two kinds of functions: character-classification functions (like `isdigit`, which tests whether a character is a digit) and character case-mapping functions (like `toupper`, which converts a lower-case letter to upper case). `<wctype.h>` provides similar functions for wide characters, although it differs from `<ctype.h>` in one important way: some of the functions in `<wctype.h>` are “extensible,” meaning that they can perform custom character classification or case mapping.

`<wctype.h>` declares three types and a macro. The `wint_t` type and the `WEOF` macro were discussed in Section 25.5. The remaining types are `wctype_t`, whose values represent locale-specific character classifications, and `wctrans_t`, whose values represent locale-specific character mappings.

Most of the functions in `<wctype.h>` require a `wint_t` argument. The value of this argument must be a wide character (a `wchar_t` value) or `WEOF`. Passing any other argument causes undefined behavior.

The behavior of the functions in `<wctype.h>` is affected by the `LC_CTYPE` category of the current locale.

Wide-Character Classification Functions

```
int iswalnum(wint_t wc);
int iswalpha(wint_t wc);
int iswblank(wint_t wc);
int iswcntrl(wint_t wc);
int iswdigit(wint_t wc);
int iswgraph(wint_t wc);
int iswlower(wint_t wc);
int iswprint(wint_t wc);
int iswpunct(wint_t wc);
int iswspace(wint_t wc);
int iswupper(wint_t wc);
int iswxdigit(wint_t wc);
```

Each wide-character classification function returns a nonzero value if its argument has a particular property. Table 25.19 lists the property that each function tests.

The descriptions in Table 25.19 ignore some of the subtleties of wide characters. For example, the definition of `iswgraph` in the C99 standard states that it “tests for any wide character for which `iswprint` is true and `iswspace` is false,”