ref for creating a ref cell. := for re-assigning. ! for extracting the value.

```
val ref : 'a -> 'a ref
val (:=) : 'a ref -> 'a -> unit
val (!) : 'a ref -> 'a
```

Using a semicolon after every expression.

for ident := expr1 to expr2 do
 expr3
done

for ident := expr1 downto expr2 do
 expr3
done

while expr1 do

expr2

done

- It can be difficult to construct cyclic data structures.

 The structure can be created using only values that already exist, so it itself can't be one of them.
- There may be no purely functional algorithm with equivalent performance to the best imperative algorithms for solving some problems.

... values, i.e., immutable values.

