

What are some other terms for *disjoint union*?

*Tagged union, variant records, algebraic data types.*

What kinds of unions does OCaml support?

*exact unions* which do not admit new members after initial definition, and *open unions*, which do.

Give the syntax for exact unions.

```
type name =  
    name1 [of type1]  
    ...  
    | nameN [of typeN]
```

Each `namei` is the *constructor* names and must begin with a capital letter.

The optional `typei` is its value.

How are instances of a disjoint union created?

With the syntax of function application give the constructor name followed by an instance of its value type, if applicable.



Give the syntax of open unions.

```
type 'a name =  
  [> 'name1 [of type1]  
  ...  
  | 'nameN [of typeN] ] as 'a
```

What does the type `[> X of Y]` mean?

It means the expression is an instance of a union type that contains the member  $x$  with value  $y$ . More cases that are supported can be added using  $|$ .

The value of a union instance can be  
accessed through ...

... pattern matching.

Give the effective definition of `list`.

Why isn't this the actual definition.

```
type 'a list =  
  []  
  | :: of 'a * 'a list
```

[] is not a valid name and requires language support.



Give the definition of `option`.

```
type 'a option =  
  None  
  | Some of 'a
```

Give another syntax for closed unions.

Same as open unions, except with  $<$  instead of  $>$ .