



Functions in C++ — Explained Like a Pro

Mhat is a Function?

Think of a function as a **toolbox** $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$: It does a **specific task** when called. You give it **inputs (tools)**, and it gives you back an output (result).

Parts of a Function

Part Part	Description	✓ Mandatory?
1 Declaration	Says what the function is and what it returns	Only if defined after use
2 Definition	Says how it works (contains code)	Yes, always needed
3 Call	Tells the function to run (use it!)	Only if you want to use it 😩

\$\mathbb{X}\$ 1. Function **Declaration** (Prototype)

It's like announcing:

"Hey! There's a function named add, it takes 2 integers and gives back an integer."

Syntax:

```
int add(int a, int b); // ♠ Declaration
```

- ⚠ Must end with a **semicolon** (;)!
- A Only needed if function is **defined after main()** or in another file.

2. Function **Definition**

This is the **actual toolbox** $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$ where work is done!

```
int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b; // Adding work happens here!
```

✓ Must match the declaration (if declared before) ✓ No semicolon after the closing brace!

3. Function Call

Now we use the tool!

```
int result = add(5, 3); // 🖒 We're calling the add function!
```

Order Matters!

Function defined before main()

Punction defined after main()

Declaration (prototype) needed

Declaration (prototype) needed

✓ Example: Declaration + Definition + Call

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// ② Declaration
int add(int, int);

int main() {
    cout << " Sum = " << add(3, 4) << endl; // ② Call
    return 0;
}

// ② Definition
int add(int a, int b) {
    return a + b;
}</pre>
```

➤ What if you skip the declaration and define after main()?

```
int main() {
   cout << add(2, 3); // X Compiler error: "add" is undefined!
}
int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}</pre>
```

* Error: Compiler doesn't know add() yet!



🕸 Part	% Analogy
Declaration	▼ Telling your team you hired a plumber
Definition	🙎 The plumber actually doing the plumbing
Call	প্ত Using the sink he installed

Summary Table

₩ Term	Syntax Example	∄ Note
Declaration	<pre>int sum(int, int);</pre>	Semicolon at the end!
Definition	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) {}</pre>	The real logic happens here
Call	sum(3, 5);	Triggers the function to execute

Bonus: Multiple Functions

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
// ♠ Declare both
int greet();
int square(int);
int main() {
    greet();
    cout << " Square of 5 = " << square(5) << endl;</pre>
    return 0;
}
// Define greet
int greet() {
    cout << "  Hello from a function!" << endl;</pre>
    return 0;
}
// Define square
int square(int x) {
    return x * x;
}
```

✓ Best Practices

- 🖫 Keep functions short and focused
- Name clearly (getSum(), printData())

• Organize in header files (.h) for reuse



```
// Syntax:
return_type function_name(parameter1, parameter2, ...) {
   // Function body: logic, operations, conditions, loops, etc.
   return value; // Send the result back (if return_type ≠ void)
}
```

Example:

```
int add(int a, int b) {
   int sum = a + b;
   return sum;
}
// Return type: int, Function name: add
// Logic: addition
// Return the result
}
```

Real-World Analogy:

Think of this function as a **coffee machine**:

Part	Meaning in Code	
int	What type of drink you'll get (e.g., Coffee = int)	
add	Machine's name (unique)	
(int a, int b)	Ingredients (inputs)	
return sum;	Final coffee output!	

☑ Best Practices for Writing Functions in C++

	✓ Why it Matters	
❸ Clear function name	Makes code readable & self-explanatory	
ℰ Do one job per function	Easier to test, debug, and reuse	
> Use return when needed	Avoid unnecessary output if the job is complete	
Use parameters effectively	Avoid using global variables unless necessary	
	Each function < 20 lines is ideal	

√ Tip

- **☑** Why it Matters
- **U** Comment the purpose

Helps collaborators (and your future self!)

Bonus: void Function (returns nothing)

```
void greet(string name) {
   cout << "" Hello, " << name << "!" << endl;
}</pre>
```

- ☑ Use void when function only performs an action (e.g., printing), not returning data.
- Full Working Example:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
// 🕭 Function Declaration (optional if defined above main)
int add(int a, int b);
void greet(string name);
// ▼ Main Function
int main() {
    greet("Darshan");
    int result = add(5, 7);
    cout << "\exists Result: " << result << endl;</pre>
    return 0;
}
// % Function Definitions
int add(int a, int b) {
    return a + b;
}
void greet(string name) {
   cout << "" Hello, " << name << "!" << endl;</pre>
}
```

Parameters vs Arguments in C++

1. What are **Parameters**?

Parameters are like empty containers (placeholders) used in function definitions/declarations. They define what type of inputs the function expects.

Syntax (Inside Function Definition):

```
void greet(string name) { // <-- 'name' is a parameter
    cout << "Hello, " << name << "!" << endl;
}</pre>
```

Think of parameters as what the function needs to work.

- 2. What are Arguments?
- **Arguments** are the **actual values** you pass when you **call** the function. They fill the **parameter placeholders** with real data.
- **Syntax** (At Function Call):

```
greet("Darshan"); // <-- "Darshan" is the argument</pre>
```

Think of **arguments** as the **real stuff** you give to the function to process.

Comparison Table

Term	Where It Appears	Example	ᢙ Meaning
Parameter	Function Declaration/Definition	string name	Placeholder variable
Argument	Function Call	"Darshan"	Actual value passed to function

Analogy Time!

Imagine you're ordering a pizza **@**:

- **Parameter** = "Topping" option in the menu (e.g., string topping)
- **Argument** = What you actually choose (e.g., "Mushrooms")

```
void orderPizza(string topping) { // topping = parameter
    cout << " Making pizza with " << topping << "!" << endl;
}
orderPizza("Mushrooms"); // "Mushrooms" = argument</pre>
```

Output:

Making pizza with Mushrooms!

Key Notes

@ Parameters:

- Are declared in the function signature
- Can be **multiple** (comma-separated)

Arguments:

- Must **match** the number and type of parameters
- Can be:

```
    Literals ("Hello", 42)
    Variables (name, age)
    Expressions (a + b, getName())
```

Example with Multiple Parameters & Arguments

Output:

```
Sum = 30
```

Quick Quiz (Try It!)

```
void introduce(string name, int age) {
   cout << "@ " << name << " is " << age << " years old." << endl;
}
int main() {
   introduce("Aarya", 21); // ? What are the arguments here?
   return 0;
}</pre>
```

✓ Answer: "Aarya" and 21 are arguments! ✓ name and age are parameters.

1 getMultiplication – Multiply two numbers

```
int getMultiplication(int a, int b) {
   return a * b;
}
```

- ② Use: Returns the product of 2 numbers ② getMultiplication(4, 5) → 20
- 2 printName10Times Print your name 10 times

```
void printName10Times(string name) {
   for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
      cout << " Hello, " << name << "!" << endl;
   }
}</pre>
```

- ☑ Use: Repeats the name 10 times ♂ printName10Times("Darshan")
- 3 printMultiples Print multiples of a number up to n

```
void printMultiples(int num, int limit) {
   for (int i = 1; i <= limit; i++) {
      cout << num << " x " << i << " = " << num * i << endl;
   }
}</pre>
```

- Use: Prints multiplication table printMultiples(5, 10)
- 4 convertToCelsius Convert Fahrenheit to Celsius %

```
float convertToCelsius(float fahrenheit) {
   return (fahrenheit - 32) * 5.0 / 9.0;
}
```

5 convertToUppercase - Convert lowercase char to uppercase

```
char convertToUppercase(char ch) {
   if (ch >= 'a' && ch <= 'z') {
      return ch - 32;
   }
   return ch; // If already uppercase or not alphabet
}</pre>
```

6 is Even – Check if number is even

```
bool isEven(int num) {
   return num % 2 == 0;
}
```

7 square – Return square of a number

```
int square(int num) {
   return num * num;
}
```

② Use: Fast math utility ③ square(7) → 49

8 sumOfDigits - Add all digits of a number

```
int sumOfDigits(int num) {
    int sum = 0;
    while (num > 0) {
        sum += num % 10;
        num /= 10;
    }
    return sum;
}
```

reverseString – Reverse a string manually

```
string reverseString(string str) {
   int n = str.length();
   for (int i = 0; i < n / 2; i++) {
      swap(str[i], str[n - i - 1]);
   }
   return str;
}</pre>
```

Use: In-place reversal reverseString("code") → "edoc"

10 factorial – Find factorial of a number

```
int factorial(int n) {
   int fact = 1;
   for (int i = 2; i <= n; i++) {
      fact *= i;
   }
   return fact;
}</pre>
```

② Use: factorial(5) \rightarrow 120 **③** Also try recursively for learning!

Main Function to Test All

```
int main() {
    cout << "i; 5 × 6 = " << getMultiplication(5, 6) << endl;
    printName10Times("Darshan");
    printMultiples(3, 5);
    cout << "> 98°F = " << convertToCelsius(98) << "°C" << endl;
    cout << "ibo 'd' → '" << convertToUppercase('d') << "'" << endl;
    cout << " Is 4 even? " << (isEven(4) ? "Yes" : "No") << endl;
    cout << " Square of 9: " << square(9) << endl;
    cout << " Reversed 'hello': " << reverseString("hello") << endl;
    cout << " Factorial of 5: " << factorial(5) << endl;
    return 0;
}</pre>
```