Data hiding is one of the important features of Object Oriented Programming which allows preventing the functions of a program to access directly the internal representation of a class type.

The public Members

A **public** member is accessible from anywhere outside the class but within a program.

## The private Members

A **private** member variable or function cannot be accessed, or even viewed from outside the class. Only the class and friend functions can access private members.

## The protected Members

A **protected** member variable or function is very similar to a private member but it provided one additional benefit that they can be accessed in child classes which are called derived classes.