

2.2 — Void

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Void is the easiest of the data types to explain. Basically, it means “no type”!

Consequently, variables can not be defined with a type of void:

```
1 | void value; // won't work, variables can't be defined with a void type
```

Void is typically used in several different contexts:

1) Most commonly, as a way to indicate that a function does not return a value:

```
1 | void writeValue(int x) // void here means no return value
2 | {
3 |     std::cout << "The value of x is: " << x << std::endl;
4 |     // no return statement, because the return type is void
5 | }
```

2) In C, as a way to indicate that a function does not take any parameters:

```
1 | int getValue(void) // void here means no parameters
2 | {
3 |     int x;
4 |     std::cin >> x;
5 |     return x;
6 | }
```

The explicit use of keyword void to mean “no parameters” is a holdover from C, and is not required in C++. The following code is equivalent, and preferred in C++:

```
1 | int getValue() // empty function parameters is an implicit void
2 | {
3 |     int x;
4 |     std::cin >> x;
5 |     return x;
6 | }
```

Rule: Use an empty parameter list instead of void to indicate no function parameters are expected

3) The void keyword has a third (more advanced) use in C++ that we cover in section [6.13 -- Void pointers](#). Since we haven't covered what a pointer is yet, you don't need to worry about this case for now. ☺



[2.3 -- Variable sizes and the sizeof operator](#)



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[2.1 -- Fundamental variable definition, initialization, and assignment](#)

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