

Adding the Prototypes

When the compiler encounters a **function call** in your program, it needs information in order to generate the correct code; the compiler doesn't need to know **how** the function is implemented, but it **does** need to know:

- what types each of the **arguments** to the function are (and how many)
- what type of value the function **returns**

That information is provided by a **prototype**, or **function declaration** (as opposed to a function definition).

```
1 | #ifndef DIGITS_H
2 | #define DIGITS_H
3 | int firstDigit(int);
4 | int lastDigit(int);
5 | int numDigits(int);
6 | #endif
```

These prototypes associate the names **firstDigit**, **lastDigit**, and **numDigits** each with a function that **takes** a single **int** as an argument and which **returns** an **int** as its result. These are **function declarations**. **Go ahead and complete the prototypes now.**

In a prototype, **parameter names are optional**. The compiler doesn't care about the names, but they help **you remember** which parameter matches which argument.

```
double focalLength(double d, double r1, double r2, double n);
```

Supplying names in a prototype often helps the reader. The parameter names in a prototype are in **prototype scope**; they have no meaning after the prototype ends, and, specifically, they do not need to match the names used in the definition.



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