

The Initializer List

We can instruct the compiler to initialize the individual data members before the body of the constructor is entered instead. This is called the **initializer list**:

- It follows the parameter list and is preceded by a colon (:)
- It is followed by a list of member names and their initializers.
- Initialization occurs **in the order the members are declared in the class**.

In C++98 the initializers are placed in parentheses; in C++11 use either parentheses or braces. You cannot use the assignment operator. Here is the same class using the initializer list. In this case, the **name** data member is **only constructed once**:

```
class Person
{
public:
    Person(const string& name) : m_name(name) { } // empty body
private:
    string m_name;
};
```



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