

Processing Lines

Since text files are usually arranged by lines, it is often useful to **read an entire line of data at one time**. The easiest way to do that is to use the function named `getline()` in the `<string>` library. `getline()` is not a member function, and it takes two arguments:

- the **input stream from which** the line is read. (Open the stream as shown in the previous sections.)
- a **string variable into which** the result is written

By default, `getline()` stops when it encounters a newline, which is **removed** from the stream and **discarded**. It **is not** stored as part of the string. Like `get()`, the `getline()` function **returns** the input stream, which allows you to test for end-of-file.

```
1 | string line;  
2 | while (getline(in, line))  
3 |     cout << line << endl;
```

This `while` loop reads each line of data from the stream into the `string` variable named `line`, until the stream reaches the end of the file. For each line, the body of the loop uses `<<` to send the line to `cout`, followed by a newline character to replace the one which was discarded by `getline()`.



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