

A Hasty Loop

In addition to *for* and *while*, C++ has a loop that tests its condition **after** the loop body completes. The do-while loop always executes the statements inside its body at least once.

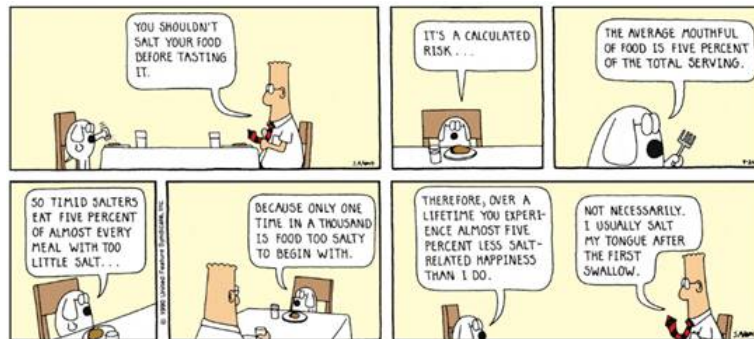


```
do
{
    // statements
}
while (condition);
```

The body of the *do-while* loop appears between the keywords *do* (which precedes the loop body) and *while*. The body of the *do-while* loop can be a single statement, ending with a semicolon, or it can be a compound statement enclosed in braces.

In the *do-while* loop, the condition is **followed by a semicolon**, unlike the *while* loop, where following the condition with a semicolon leads to subtle, hard to find bugs.

The *do-while* loop is often employed by beginning programmers because it seems more natural. If you find yourself in this situation, think twice. 99% of the time, a *while* loop or a *for* loop is a better choice than a *do-while*. In fact, except for salting your food...



which should **always be done before tasting**, there are relatively few other situations where a test-at-the-bottom strategy is superior to "looking before you leap."



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