

The *try* and *catch* Blocks

To **handle** and **recover** from errors, you need a combination of **try** and **catch** blocks. A **try** block is simply a block of code where runtime errors might occur; write the keyword **try**, and then surround the appropriate code in a pair of curly braces, like this:

```
1 | string str;  
2 | cin >> str;  
3 | try {  
4 |     int a = stoi(str);  
5 |     cout << "a = " << a << endl; // skipped if exception thrown  
6 | }  
7 | catch (const invalid_argument& e) {  
8 |     cerr << e.what() << endl; // if exception thrown  
9 | }
```

There are three things to note here.

1. If the user enters "one" then **stoi()** will throw an exception, and control **immediately** breaks out of the **try** block and **jumps** to the **catch** block, skipping the line that prints **a**. We're guaranteed that **the rest of the code in the try block will not execute**, preventing error cascades.
2. If an exception is thrown and caught, control **does not return** to the **try** block. Instead, control resumes directly **following** the **try/catch** pair.
3. Catch exception classes from the standard library **by const reference**. This avoids making copies and **enables polymorphism**. You will get a compiler warning if you don't do this.

If no error occurs, then all of the code inside the **try** block executes as normal, and the subsequent **catch** block is ignored. The function **what()** will return the **string** used to construct the exception object. Here, its used to print the error message in the **catch** block.



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