

Implementing Member Functions

To define a member function, specify the name of the function **preceded by the name of the structure that it belongs to**. To implement write(), for instance, write:

```
ostream& Time::write(ostream& out)
{
    // format and print output here
    return out;
}
```

The name of the member function is **Time::write**; the double-colon operator (::) is called the **scope resolution operator** and tells C++ where to look for the function.

You can think of the syntax **X::Y** as meaning “look inside **X** for **Y**.” It is important to use the **fully-qualified name** of the function when implementing it. The code shown below may compile, but C++ thinks you are implementing a regular (or **free**) function named **write()** that has **no relationship whatsoever** to the **Time** class.



```
ostream& write(ostream& out)
{
    // Error... not a member function
    return out;
}
```



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