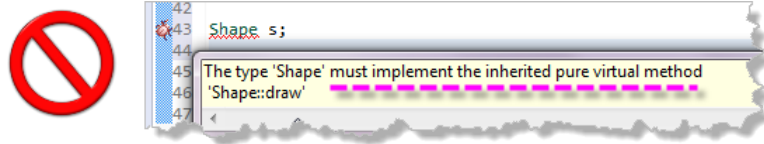# Using an Abstract Class

It is <mark>illegal to create an instance of an abstract class</mark>. Your compiler enforces this. You may, however, create **ABC** pointers or references as long as they point to, or refer to concrete objects which are derived from the **ABC**.

When you **extend an abstract class**, your derived class <mark>**must override each and every abstract function in its base class**</mark>, giving each a concrete implementation. The resulting derived class is a **concrete class**, and it can be used to create new objects.

Abstract classes thus provide a way of **guaranteeing** that an object of a given type will understand a given message. In that sense, <mark>**they specify a set of responsibilities that a derived class mustfulfill.**</mark>