

# Processing Tokens

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We can also process input **token by token** or word by word. The word token means "a chunk of meaningful data". A token may be an integer, a number, a string, or a custom type, like stars or points.

As you've already seen, you read a token using the **extraction operator** `>>` `var`. If `var` is a **string**, this reads a single word. When `var` is an **int**, it reads an integer, and so on.

The input operation **returns the stream**, just as with raw input and line-oriented input. We could process input **word-by-word**, like this:

```
string word;
while (in >> word) // process the word
```

Of course, the phrase "word-by-word" is not exactly correct, since a "word" may include punctuation, or be a number, and so on. Technically, it is **token-by-token**.



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