

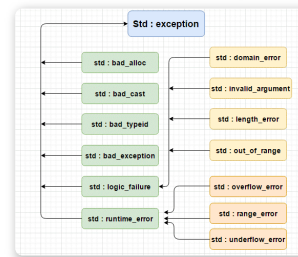
What Should You Throw?

Unlike Java, in C++, it is legal to **throw any kind of object**, not just members of an exception class hierarchy. So, in C++, all of these are legal:

```
if (len < 3) throw "Too short"s; // throw a string
if (a > b) throw 42;           // throw an integer error code
if (b < c) throw 3.5;          // throw a double
```

The question is, though, what **should** `stoi()` throw when an error occurs? The [library documentation](#) says that the function throws an **invalid_argument** exception.

The header file, `<stdexcept>` defines this and several other classes that let us specify what specific error triggered the exception, similar to the **Exception** class hierarchy from the Java Class Libraries. (Click the image to enlarge it.)



The **invalid_argument** exception is ideal because

- its constructor takes a **string** argument, useful for error messages.
- it has a member function **what()** that returns what the error was

Include `<stdexcept>`, and rewrite the **throw** statement like this:

```
throw invalid_argument(str + " not an int.");
```



This course content is offered under a [CC Attribution Non-Commercial](#) license. Content in this course can be considered under this license unless otherwise noted.