Lesson 3 FAQs

> **Q:** Where do the terms *floating point* and *float* come from?

A: Remember that a float value is simply a number that contains a decimal point. These types of numbers are referred to as *float* or *floating point* numbers because the decimal point can move, or float, to anyplace in the number.

There are no restrictions on where the decimal point can appear. It can be the second character from the right (as in 45.4), it can be the fourth character from the right (as in 1.232), or it can be the sixth character from the right (as in 999.99000).

> **Q:** Where does the type *boolean* come from?

A: The word honors a famous mathematician named George Boole (1815-1864). While teaching at Queens College in Ireland, Boole created a system of logic we call *Boolean algebra*, in which variables can have only two possible values: true or false.

Boole used mathematical symbols to express human logic. This new form of mathematics heavily influenced the development of the modern telecommunication and computer industries. So in his honor, the logical types in many programming languages are named *boolean* or *bool*.