Access Control and Inheritance:

A derived class can access all the non-private members of its base class. Thus base-class members that should not be accessible to the member functions of derived classes should be declared private in the base class.

We can summarize the different access types according to who can access them in the following way:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Access** | **public** | **protected** | **private** |
| Same class | yes | yes | yes |
| Derived classes | yes | yes | no |
| Outside classes | yes | no | no |

A derived class inherits all base class methods with the following exceptions:

* Constructors, destructors and copy constructors of the base class.
* Overloaded operators of the base class.
* The friend functions of the base class.

Type of Inheritance:

When deriving a class from a base class, the base class may be inherited through **public, protected** or **private** inheritance. The type of inheritance is specified by the access-specifier as explained above.

We hardly use **protected** or **private** inheritance, but **public** inheritance is commonly used. While using different type of inheritance, following rules are applied:

* **Public Inheritance:** When deriving a class from a **public** base class, **public** members of the base class become **public** members of the derived class and **protected** members of the base class become **protected** members of the derived class. A base class's **private** members are never accessible directly from a derived class, but can be accessed through calls to the **public** and **protected** members of the base class.
* **Protected Inheritance:** When deriving from a **protected** base class, **public** and **protected** members of the base class become **protected** members of the derived class.
* **Private Inheritance:** When deriving from a **private** base class, **public** and **protected** members of the base class become **private** members of the derived class.

Source: <http://www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus/cpp_inheritance.htm>