Introduction to Classes, Objects and Strings

OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you'll learn:

- How to define a class and use it to create an object.
- How to implement a class's behaviors as member functions.
- How to implement a class's attributes as data members.
- How to call a member function of an object to perform a task.
- The differences between data members of a class and local variables of a function.
- How to use a constructor to initialize an object's data when the object is created.
- How to engineer a class to separate its interface from its implementation and encourage reuse.
- How to use objects of class `string`.

3.1 Introduction

- In this chapter, you'll begin writing programs that employ the basic concepts of *object-oriented programming* that we introduced in Section 1.8.
- Typically, the programs you develop in this book will consist of function `main` and one or more *classes*, each containing *data members* and *member functions*.
- In this chapter, we develop a simple, well-engineered framework for organizing object-oriented programs in C++.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function

- We begin with an example (Fig. 3.1) that consists of class `GradeBook` (lines 8–16), which, when it is fully developed in Chapter 7, will represent a grade book that an instructor can use to maintain student test scores, and a `main` function (lines 19–23) that creates a `GradeBook` object.
- Function `main` uses this object and its `displayMessage` member function to display a message on the screen welcoming the instructor to the grade-book program.


```
1  // Fig. 3.1: fig03_01.cpp
2  // Define class GradeBook with a member function displayMessage,
3  // create a GradeBook object, and call its displayMessage function.
4  #include <iostream>
5  using namespace std;
6
7  // GradeBook class definition
8  class GradeBook
9  {
10 public:
11    // function that displays a welcome message to the GradeBook user
12    void displayMessage() const
13    {
14       cout << "Welcome to the Grade Book!" << endl;
15    } // end function displayMessage
16 }; // end class GradeBook
17
18 // function main begins program execution
19 int main()
20 {
21    GradeBook myGradeBook; // create a GradeBook object named myGradeBook
22    myGradeBook.displayMessage(); // call object's displayMessage function
23 } // end main
```

Fig. 3.1 | Define class GradeBook with a member function displayMessage, create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function. (Part 1 of 2.)


```
Welcome to the Grade Book!
```

Fig. 3.1 | Define class GradeBook with a member function displayMessage, create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function. (Part 2 of 2.)

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- The `GradeBook` class definition (lines 8–16) begins with keyword `class` and contains a member function called `displayMessage` (lines 12–15) that displays a message on the screen (line 14).
- Need to make an object of class `GradeBook` (line 21) and call its `displayMessage` member function (line 22) to get line 14 to execute and display the welcome message.
- The class definition begins with the keyword `class` followed by the class name `GradeBook`.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- By convention, the name of a user-defined class begins with a capital letter, and for readability, each subsequent word in the class name begins with a capital letter.
- Often referred to as Pascal case.
- The occasional uppercase letters resemble a camel's humps. More generally, camel case capitalization style allows the first letter to be either lowercase or uppercase

- Every class's body is enclosed in a pair of left and right braces ({ and }), as in lines 9 and 16.
- The class definition terminates with a semicolon (line 16).

Common Programming Error 3.1

Forgetting the semicolon at the end of a class definition is a syntax error.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- Function `main` is always called automatically when you execute a program.
- Most functions do not get called automatically.
- You must call member function `displayMessage` explicitly to tell it to perform its task.
- The access-specifier label `public:` contains the keyword `public` is an access specifier.
  - Indicates that the function is "available to the public"—that is, it can be called by other functions in the program (such as `main`), and by member functions of other classes (if there are any).
  - Access specifiers are always followed by a colon (`:`).

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- Each function in a program performs a task and may *return a value* when it completes its task.
- When you define a function, you must specify a return type to indicate the type of the value returned by the function when it completes its task.
- Keyword `void` to the left of the function name `displayMessage` is the function's return type.
  - Indicates that `displayMessage` will *not* return any data to its calling function when it completes its task.
- The name of the member function, `displayMessage`, follows the return type.
- By convention, our function names use the *camel case* style with a lowercase first letter.
- The parentheses after the member function name indicate that it is a *function*.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- Empty parentheses indicate that a member function does not require additional data to perform its task.
- The first line of a function definition is commonly called the function header.
- Every function's *body* is delimited by left and right braces ({ and }).
- The *function body* contains statements that perform the function's task.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

Testing Class GradeBook

- Typically, you cannot call a member function of a class until you create an object of that class.
- First, create an object of class `GradeBook` called `myGradeBook`.
  - The variable's type is `GradeBook`.
  - The compiler does not automatically know what type `GradeBook` is—it's a user-defined type.
  - Tell the compiler what `GradeBook` is by including the class definition.
  - Each class you create becomes a new type that can be used to create objects.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

- Call the member function displayMessage- by using variable myGradeBook followed by the dot operator (.), the function name display-Message and an empty set of parentheses.
- Causes the displayMessage function to perform its task.

3.2 Defining a Class with a Member Function (cont.)

UML Class Diagram for Class GradeBook

- In the UML, each class is modeled in a UML class diagram as a *rectangle* with three *compartments*.
- Figure 3.2 presents a class diagram for class `GradeBook` (Fig. 3.1).
- The *top compartment* contains the class's name centered horizontally and in boldface type.
- The *middle compartment* contains the class's attributes, which correspond to data members in C++.
  - Currently empty, because class `GradeBook` does not yet have any attributes.
- The *bottom compartment* contains the class's operations, which correspond to member functions in C++.
- The UML models operations by listing the operation name followed by a set of parentheses.
- The plus sign (+) in front of the operation name indicates that `display-Message` is a public operation in the UML.

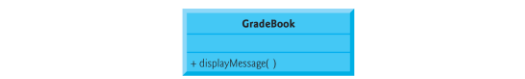


Fig. 3.2 | UML class diagram indicating that class GradeBook has a public displayMessage operation.

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter

- Car analogy
  - Pressing a car's gas pedal sends a *message* to the car to perform a task—make the car go faster.
  - But how fast should the car accelerate? As you know, the farther down you press the pedal, the faster the car accelerates.
  - The message to the car includes *both* the *task to perform* and *additional information that helps the car perform the task*.
- Additional information that a function needs to perform its task is known as a parameter.
- A function call supplies values—called arguments—for each of the function's parameters.

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter (cont.)

- Fig. 3.3 redefines class `GradeBook` (lines 9–18) with a `display-Message` member function (lines 13–17) that displays the course name as part of the welcome message.
  - The new version of `displayMessage` requires a *parameter* (`courseName` in line 13) that represents the course name to output.
- A variable of type `string` represents a string of characters.
- A string is actually an object of the C++ Standard Library class `string`.
  - Defined in header file `<string>` and part of namespace `std`.
  - For now, you can think of `string` variables like variables of other types such as `int`.
  - Additional `string` capabilities in Section 3.9.


```
1  // Fig. 3.3: fig03_03.cpp
2  // Define class GradeBook with a member function that takes a parameter,
3  // create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function.
4  #include <iostream>
5  #include <string> // program uses C++ standard string class
6  using namespace std;
7
8  // GradeBook class definition
9  class GradeBook
10 {
11 public:
12    // function that displays a welcome message to the GradeBook user
13    void displayMessage( string courseName ) const
14    {
15       cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << courseName << "!"
16          << endl;
17    } // end function displayMessage
18 }; // end class GradeBook
19
```

Fig. 3.3 | Define class GradeBook with a member function that takes a parameter, create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function. (Part 1 of 3.)

```
20  // function main begins program execution
21  int main()
22  {
23     string nameOfCourse; // string of characters to store the course name
24     GradeBook myGradeBook; // create a GradeBook object named myGradeBook
25
26     // prompt for and input course name
27     cout << "Please enter the course name:" << endl;
28     getline( cin, nameOfCourse ); // read a course name with blanks
29     cout << endl; // output a blank line
30
31     // call myGradeBook's displayMessage function
32     // and pass nameOfCourse as an argument
33     myGradeBook.displayMessage( nameOfCourse );
34  } // end main
```

Fig. 3.3 | Define class GradeBook with a member function that takes a parameter, create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function. (Part 2 of 3.)


```
Please enter the course name:
CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming

Welcome to the grade book for
CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming!
```

Fig. 3.3 | Define class GradeBook with a member function that takes a parameter, create a GradeBook object and call its displayMessage function. (Part 3 of 3.)

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter (cont.)

- Library function `getline` reads a line of text into a `string`.
- The function call `getline( cin, nameOfCourse )` reads characters (including the space characters that separate the words in the input) from the standard input stream object `cin` (i.e., the keyboard) until the *newline* character is encountered, places the characters in the `string` variable `nameOfCourse` and *discards* the newline character.
- When you press *Enter* while entering data, a newline is inserted in the input stream.
- The `<string>` header file must be included in the program to use function `getline`.

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter (cont.)

- Line 33 calls `myGradeBook`'s `displayMessage` member function.
  - The `nameOfCourse` variable in parentheses is the argument that is passed to member function `displayMessage` so that it can perform its task.
  - The value of variable `nameOfCourse` in `main` becomes the value of member function `displayMessage`'s parameter `courseName` in line 13.

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter (cont.)

- To specify that a function requires data to perform its task, you place additional information in the function's parameter list, which is located in the parentheses following the function name.
- The parameter list may contain any number of parameters, including *none at all* to indicate that a function does *not* require any parameters.
- Each parameter must specify a type and an identifier.
- A function can specify multiple parameters by separating each parameter from the next with a comma.
- The number and order of arguments in a function call must match the number and order of parameters in the parameter list of the called member function's header.
- Tthe argument types in the function call must be consistent with the types of the corresponding parameters in the function header.

3.3 Defining a Member Function with a Parameter (cont.)

- The UML class diagram of Fig. 3.4 models class `GradeBook` of Fig. 3.3.
- The UML models a parameter by listing the parameter name, followed by a colon and the parameter type in the parentheses following the operation name.
- The UML has its own data types similar to those of C++.
- The UML is *language independent*—it's used with many different programming languages—so its terminology does not exactly match that of C++.

Fig. 3.4 | UML class diagram indicating that class `GradeBook` has a public `displayMessage` operation with a `courseName` parameter of UML type `String`.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions

- Variables declared in a function definition's body are known as local variables and can be used only from the line of their declaration in the function to the closing right brace (}) of the block in which they're declared.
  - A local variable must be declared *before* it can be used in a function.
  - A local variable cannot be accessed *outside* the function in which it's declared.
  - *When a function terminates, the values of its local variables are lost.*

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- An object has attributes that are carried with it as it's used in a program.
  - Such attributes exist throughout the life of the object.
  - A class normally consists of one or more member functions that manipulate the attributes that belong to a particular object of the class.
- Attributes are represented as variables in a class definition.
  - Such variables are called data members and are declared inside a class definition but outside the bodies of the class's member-function definitions.
- Each object of a class maintains its own attributes in memory.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- A typical instructor teaches several courses, each with its own course name.
- A variable that is declared in the class definition but outside the bodies of the class's member-function definitions is a *data member*.
- Every instance (i.e., object) of a class contains each of the class's data members.
- A benefit of making a variable a data member is that all the member functions of the class can manipulate any data members that appear in the class definition.


```
1  // Fig. 3.5: fig03_05.cpp
2  // Define class GradeBook that contains a courseName data member
3  // and member functions to set and get its value;
4  // Create and manipulate a GradeBook object with these functions.
5  #include <iostream>
6  #include <string> // program uses C++ standard string class
7  using namespace std;
8
9  // GradeBook class definition
10 class GradeBook
11 {
12 public:
13    // function that sets the course name
14    void setCourseName( string name )
15    {
16       courseName = name; // store the course name in the object
17    } // end function setCourseName
18
19    // function that gets the course name
20    string getCourseName() const
21    {
22       return courseName; // return the object's courseName
23    } // end function getCourseName
```

Fig. 3.5 | Defining and testing class GradeBook with a data member and *set* and *get* member functions. (Part 1 of 3.)


```
24
25    // function that displays a welcome message
26    void displayMessage() const
27    {
28       // this statement calls getCourseName to get the
29       // name of the course this GradeBook represents
30       cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << getCourseName() << "!"
31          << endl;
32    } // end function displayMessage
33 private:
34    string courseName; // course name for this GradeBook
35 }; // end class GradeBook
36
37 // function main begins program execution
38 int main()
39 {
40    string nameOfCourse; // string of characters to store the course name
41    GradeBook myGradeBook; // create a GradeBook object named myGradeBook
42
43    // display initial value of courseName
44    cout << "Initial course name is: " << myGradeBook.getCourseName()
45       << endl;
```

Fig. 3.5 | Defining and testing class GradeBook with a data member and *set* and *get* member functions. (Part 2 of 3.)

```
46
47     // prompt for, input and set course name
48     cout << "\nPlease enter the course name:" << endl;
49     getline( cin, nameOfCourse ); // read a course name with blanks
50     myGradeBook.setCourseName( nameOfCourse ); // set the course name
51
52     cout << endl; // outputs a blank line
53     myGradeBook.displayMessage(); // display message with new course name
54  } // end main
```

```
Initial course name is:

Please enter the course name:
CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming

Welcome to the grade book for
CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming!
```

Fig. 3.5 | Defining and testing class GradeBook with a data member and *set* and *get* member functions. (Part 3 of 3.)

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- Most data-member declarations appear after the access-specifier label `private:`
- Like `public`, keyword `private` is an access specifier.
- Variables or functions declared after access specifier `private` (and before the next access specifier) are accessible only to member functions of the class for which they're declared.
- The default access for class members is `private` so all members after the class header and before the first access specifier are `private`.
- The access specifiers `public` and `private` may be repeated, but this is unnecessary and can be confusing.

Error-Prevention Tip 3.1

Making the data members of a class `private` and the member functions of the class `public` facilitates debugging because problems with data manipulations are localized to either the class's member functions or the friends of the class.

Common Programming Error 3.2

An attempt by a function, which is not a member of a particular class (or a friend of that class) to access a `private` member of that class is a compilation error.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- Declaring data members with access specifier `private` is known as data hiding.
- When a program creates (instantiates) an object, its data members are encapsulated (hidden) in the object and can be accessed only by member functions of the object's class.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- In this example, `setCourseName` does not attempt to validate the course name—i.e., the function does not check that the course name adheres to any particular format or follows any other rules regarding what a "valid" course name looks like.
  - Suppose, for instance, that a university can print student transcripts containing course names of only 25 characters or fewer.
  - In this case, we might want class `GradeBook` to ensure that its data member `courseName` never contains more than 25 characters.
  - We discuss basic validation techniques in Section 3.9.
- When a function that specifies a return type other than `void` is called and completes its task, the function uses a `return` statement to return a result to its calling function.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- Member function `displayMessage` (lines 26–32) does not return any data when it completes its task, so its return type is `void`.
- The function does not receive parameters, so its parameter list is empty.
- Line 30 calls member function `getCourseName` to obtain the value of `courseName`.
  - Member function `displayMessage` could also access data member `courseName` directly, just as member functions `setCourseName` and `getCourseName` do.
- By default, the initial value of a `string` is the so-called empty string, i.e., a string that does not contain any characters.
- Nothing appears on the screen when an empty string is displayed.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- A client of an object—that is, any class or function that calls the object's member functions from *outside* the object—calls the class's `public` member functions to request the class's services for particular objects of the class.
  - This is why the statements in `main` call member functions `setCourseName`, `getCourseName` and `displayMessage` on a `GradeBook` object.
- Classes often provide `public` member functions to allow clients of the class to *set* (i.e., assign values to) or *get* (i.e., obtain the values of) `private` data members.
  - These member function names need not begin with `set` or `get`, but this naming convention is common.
- Set functions are also sometimes called mutators (because they mutate, or change, values), and get functions are also sometimes called accessors (because they access values).

Good Programming Practice 3.1

Always try to localize the effects of changes to a class's data members by accessing and manipulating the data members through their corresponding `get` and `set` functions.

Software Engineering Observation 3.1

Write programs that are clear and easy to maintain. Change is the rule rather than the exception. You should anticipate that your code will be modified, and possibly often.

3.4 Data Members, *set* Member Functions and *get* Member Functions (Cont.)

- Figure 3.6 contains an updated UML class diagram for the version of class `GradeBook` in Fig. 3.5.
- The UML represents data members as attributes by listing the attribute name, followed by a colon and the attribute type.

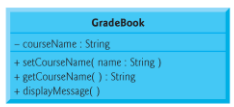


Fig. 3.6 | UML class diagram for class `GradeBook` with a private `courseName` attribute and public operations `setCourseName`, `getCourseName` and `displayMessage`.

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors

- Each class can provide one or more constructors that can be used to initialize an object of the class when the object is created.
- A constructor is a special member function that must be defined with the *same name as the class*, so that the compiler can distinguish it from the class's other member functions.
- An important difference between constructors and other functions is that constructors cannot return values, so they *cannot* specify a return type (not even `void`).
- Normally, constructors are declared `public`.

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

- C++ automatically calls a constructor for each object that is created, which helps ensure that objects are initialized properly before they're used in a program.
- The constructor call occurs when the object is created.
- If a class does not *explicitly* include constructors, the compiler provides a default constructor with *no* parameters.


```
1  // Fig. 3.7: fig03_07.cpp
2  // Instantiating multiple objects of the GradeBook class and using
3  // the GradeBook constructor to specify the course name
4  // when each GradeBook object is created.
5  #include <iostream>
6  #include <string> // program uses C++ standard string class
7  using namespace std;
8
9  // GradeBook class definition
10 class GradeBook
11 {
12 public:
13    // constructor initializes courseName with string supplied as argument
14    explicit GradeBook( string name )
15       : courseName( name ) // member initializer to initialize courseName
16    {
17       // empty body
18    } // end GradeBook constructor
19
```

Fig. 3.7 | Instantiating multiple objects of the GradeBook class and using the GradeBook constructor to specify the course name when each GradeBook object is created. (Part 1 of 3.)


```
20    // function to set the course name
21    void setCourseName( string name )
22    {
23       courseName = name; // store the course name in the object
24    } // end function setCourseName
25
26    // function to get the course name
27    string getCourseName() const
28    {
29       return courseName; // return object's courseName
30    } // end function getCourseName
31
32    // display a welcome message to the GradeBook user
33    void displayMessage() const
34    {
35       // call getCourseName to get the courseName
36       cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << getCourseName()
37          << "!" << endl;
38    } // end function displayMessage
```

Fig. 3.7 | Instantiating multiple objects of the GradeBook class and using the GradeBook constructor to specify the course name when each GradeBook object is created. (Part 2 of 3.)

```
39  private:
40     string courseName; // course name for this GradeBook
41  }; // end class GradeBook
42
43  // function main begins program execution
44  int main()
45  {
46     // create two GradeBook objects
47     GradeBook gradeBook1( "CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming" );
48     GradeBook gradeBook2( "CS102 Data Structures in C++" );
49
50     // display initial value of courseName for each GradeBook
51     cout << "gradeBook1 created for course: " << gradeBook1.getCourseName()
52        << "\ngradeBook2 created for course: " << gradeBook2.getCourseName()
53        << endl;
54  } // end main
```

```
gradeBook1 created for course: CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming
gradeBook2 created for course: CS102 Data Structures in C++
```

Fig. 3.7 | Instantiating multiple objects of the GradeBook class and using the GradeBook constructor to specify the course name when each GradeBook object is created. (Part 3 of 3.)

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

- A constructor specifies in its parameter list the data it requires to perform its task.
- When you create a new object, you place this data in the parentheses that follow the object name.
- The constructor uses a member-initializer list (line 15) to initialize the `courseName` data member with the value of the constructor's parameter name.
- *Member initializers* appear between a constructor's parameter list and the left brace that begins the constructor's body.
- The member initializer list is separated from the parameter list with a *colon (:)*.

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

- A member initializer consists of a data member's *variable name* followed by parentheses containing the member's *initial value*.
- In this example, `courseName` is initialized with the value of the parameter `name`.
- If a class contains more than one data member, each data member's initializer is separated from the next by a comma.
- The member initializer list executes *before* the body of the constructor executes.

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

- Line 47 creates and initializes a `GradeBook` object called `gradeBook1`.
  - When this line executes, the `GradeBook` constructor (lines 14–18) is called with the argument `"CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming"` to initialize `gradeBook1`'s course name.
- Line 48 repeats this process for the `GradeBook` object called `gradeBook2`, this time passing the argument `"CS102 Data Structures in C++"` to initialize `gradeBook2`'s course name.

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

- Any constructor that takes *no* arguments is called a default constructor.
- A class gets a default constructor in one of several ways:
  - The compiler *implicitly* creates a default constructor in every class that does *not* have any user-defined constructors. The default constructor does *not* initialize the class's data members, but *does* call the default constructor for each data member that is an object of another class. An uninitialized variable contains an undefined ("garbage") value.
  - You *explicitly* define a constructor that takes no arguments. Such a default constructor will call the default constructor for each data member that is an object of another class and will perform additional initialization specified by you.
  - *If you define any constructors with arguments, C++ will not implicitly create a default constructor for that class.*

3.5 Initializing Objects with Constructors (cont.)

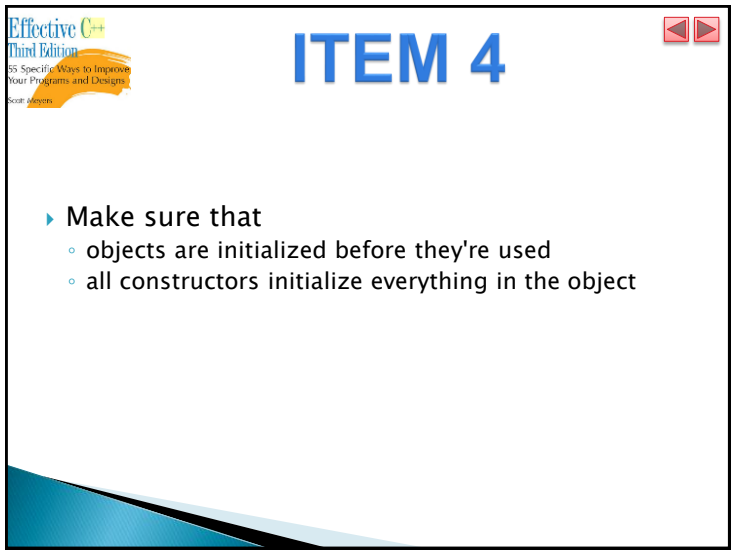
- Like operations, the UML models constructors in the third compartment of a class in a class diagram.
- To distinguish a constructor from a class's operations, the UML places the word "constructor" between guillemets (« and ») before the constructor's name.
- It's customary to list the class's constructor before other operations in the third compartment.

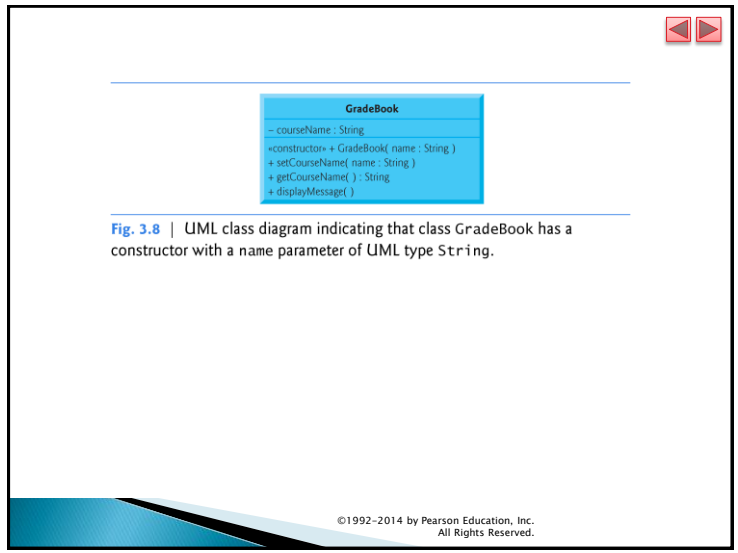
Error-Prevention Tip 3.2

Unless no initialization of your class's data members is necessary (almost never), provide constructors to ensure that your class's data members are initialized with meaningful values when each new object of your class is created.

Software Engineering Observation 3.2

Data members can be initialized in a constructor, or their values may be set later after the object is created. However, it's a good software engineering practice to ensure that an object is fully initialized before the client code invokes the object's member functions. You should not rely on the client code to ensure that an object gets initialized properly.


Effective C++
Third Edition
55 Specific Ways to Improve Your Programs and Designs
Scott Meyers
ITEM 4
Make sure that
objects are initialized before they're used
all constructors initialize everything in the object


GradeBook
– courseName : String
«constructor» + GradeBook(name : String)
+ setCourseName(name : String)
+ getCourseName( ) : String
+ displayMessage( )
Fig. 3.8 | UML class diagram indicating that class GradeBook has a constructor with a name parameter of UML type String.
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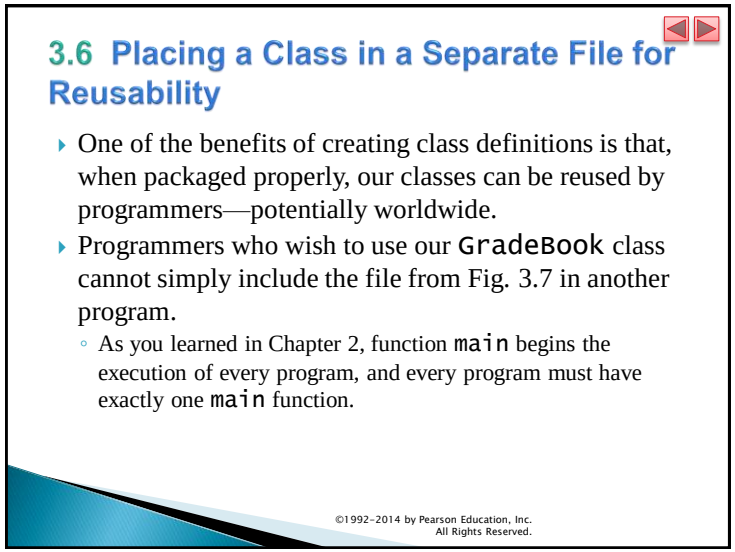
3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability
One of the benefits of creating class definitions is that, when packaged properly, our classes can be reused by programmers—potentially worldwide.
Programmers who wish to use our GradeBook class cannot simply include the file from Fig. 3.7 in another program.
As you learned in Chapter 2, function main begins the execution of every program, and every program must have exactly one main function.
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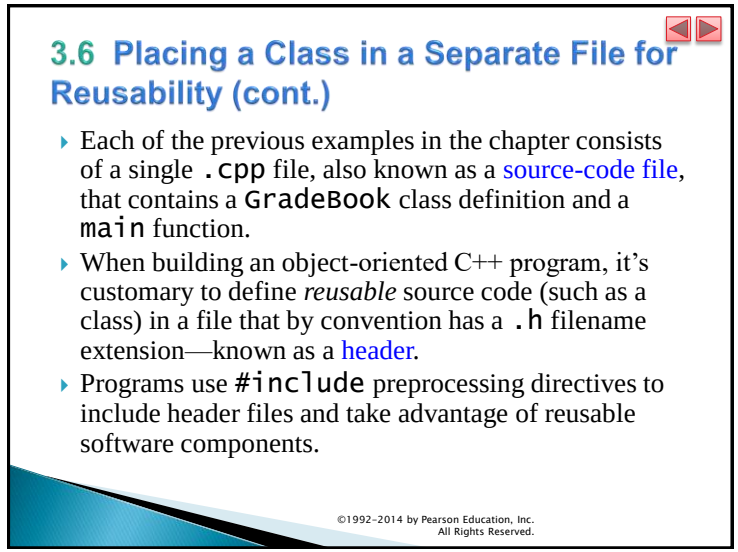
3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)
Each of the previous examples in the chapter consists of a single .cpp file, also known as a source-code file, that contains a GradeBook class definition and a main function.
When building an object-oriented C++ program, it's customary to define reusable source code (such as a class) in a file that by convention has a .h filename extension—known as a header.
Programs use #include preprocessing directives to include header files and take advantage of reusable software components.
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3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- Our next example separates the code from Fig. 3.7 into two files—`GradeBook.h` (Fig. 3.9) and `fig03_10.cpp` (Fig. 3.10).
  - As you look at the header file in Fig. 3.9, notice that it contains only the `GradeBook` class definition (lines 7–38) and the headers on which the class depends.
  - The `main` function that *uses* class `GradeBook` is defined in the source-code file `fig03_10.cpp` (Fig. 3.10) in lines 8–18.
- To help you prepare for the larger programs you'll encounter later in this book and in industry, we often use a separate source-code file containing function `main` to test our classes (this is called a driver program).


```
1  // Fig. 3.9: GradeBook.h
2  // GradeBook class definition in a separate file from main.
3  #include <iostream>
4  #include <string> // class GradeBook uses C++ standard string class
5
6  // GradeBook class definition
7  class GradeBook
8  {
9  public:
10    // constructor initializes courseName with string supplied as argument
11    explicit GradeBook( std::string name )
12       : courseName( name ) // member initializer to initialize courseName
13    {
14       // empty body
15    } // end GradeBook constructor
16
17    // function to set the course name
18    void setCourseName( std::string name )
19    {
20       courseName = name; // store the course name in the object
21    } // end function setCourseName
22
```

Fig. 3.9 | GradeBook class definition in a separate file from `main`. (Part 1 of 2.)


```
23    // function to get the course name
24    std::string getCourseName() const
25    {
26       return courseName; // return object's courseName
27    } // end function getCourseName
28
29    // display a welcome message to the GradeBook user
30    void displayMessage() const
31    {
32       // call getCourseName to get the courseName
33       std::cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << getCourseName()
34          << "!" << std::endl;
35    } // end function displayMessage
36 private:
37    std::string courseName; // course name for this GradeBook
38 }; // end class GradeBook
```

Fig. 3.9 | GradeBook class definition in a separate file from `main`. (Part 2 of 2.)


```
1  // Fig. 3.10: fig03_10.cpp
2  // Including class GradeBook from file GradeBook.h for use in main.
3  #include <iostream>
4  #include "GradeBook.h" // include definition of class GradeBook
5  using namespace std;
6
7  // function main begins program execution
8  int main()
9  {
10    // create two GradeBook objects
11    GradeBook gradeBook1( "CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming" );
12    GradeBook gradeBook2( "CS102 Data Structures in C++" );
13
14    // display initial value of courseName for each GradeBook
15    cout << "gradeBook1 created for course: " << gradeBook1.getCourseName()
16       << "\ngradeBook2 created for course: " << gradeBook2.getCourseName()
17       << endl;
18 } // end main
```

```
gradeBook1 created for course: CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming
gradeBook2 created for course: CS102 Data Structures in C++
```

Fig. 3.10 | Including class `GradeBook` from file `GradeBook.h` for use in `main`.

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- Throughout the header (Fig. 3.9), we use `std::` when referring to `string` (lines 11, 18, 24 and 37), `cout` (line 33) and `endl` (line 34).
- Headers should never contain `using` directives or `using` declarations (Section 2.7).
- To test class `GradeBook` (defined in Fig. 3.9), you must write a separate source-code file containing a `main` function (such as Fig. 3.10) that instantiates and uses objects of the class.

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- To help the compiler understand how to use a class, we must explicitly provide the compiler with the class's definition
  - That's why, for example, to use type `string`, a program must include the `<string>` header file.
  - This enables the compiler to determine the amount of memory that it must reserve for each object of the class and ensure that a program calls the class's member functions correctly.

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- The compiler creates only one copy of the class's member functions and shares that copy among all the class's objects.
- Each object, of course, needs its own data members, because their contents can vary among objects.
- The member-function code, however, is *not modifiable*, so it can be shared among all objects of the class.
- Therefore, the size of an object depends on the amount of memory required to store the class's data members.
- By including `GradeBook.h` in line 4, we give the compiler access to the information it needs to determine the size of a `GradeBook` object and to determine whether objects of the class are used correctly.

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- A `#include` directive instructs the C++ preprocessor to replace the directive with a copy of the contents of `GradeBook.h` *before* the program is compiled.
  - When the source-code file `fig03_10.cpp` is compiled, it now contains the `GradeBook` class definition (because of the `#include`), and the compiler is able to determine how to create `GradeBook` objects and see that their member functions are called correctly.
- Now that the class definition is in a header file (without a `main` function), we can include that header in *any* program that needs to reuse our `GradeBook` class.

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- Notice that the name of the `GradeBook.h` header file in line 4 of Fig. 3.10 is enclosed in quotes (`" "`) rather than angle brackets (`< >`).
  - Normally, a program's source-code files and user-defined header files are placed in the same directory.
  - When the preprocessor encounters a header file name in quotes, it attempts to locate the header file in the same directory as the file in which the `#include` directive appears.
  - If the preprocessor cannot find the header file in that directory, it searches for it in the same location(s) as the C++ Standard Library header files.
  - When the preprocessor encounters a header file name in angle brackets (e.g., `<iostream>`), it assumes that the header is part of the C++ Standard Library and does not look in the directory of the program that is being preprocessed.

Error-Prevention Tip 3.3

To ensure that the preprocessor can locate headers correctly, `#include` preprocessing directives should place user-defined headers names in quotes (e.g., `"GradeBook.h"`) and place C++ Standard Library headers names in angle brackets (e.g., `<iostream>`).

3.6 Placing a Class in a Separate File for Reusability (cont.)

- Placing a class definition in a header file reveals the entire implementation of the class to the class's clients.
- Conventional software engineering wisdom says that to use an object of a class, the client code needs to know only what member functions to call, what arguments to provide to each member function and what return type to expect from each member function.
  - The client code does not need to know how those functions are implemented.
- If client code *does* know how a class is implemented, the client-code programmer might write client code based on the class's implementation details.
- Ideally, if that implementation changes, the class's clients should not have to change.
- Hiding the class's implementation details makes it easier to change the class's implementation while minimizing, and hopefully eliminating, changes to client code.

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation

- Interfaces define and standardize the ways in which things such as people and systems interact with one another.
- The interface of a class describes what services a class's clients can use and how to request those services, but not how the class carries out the services.
- A class's `public` interface consists of the class's `public` member functions (also known as the class's `public` services).

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

- In our prior examples, each class definition contained the complete definitions of the class's `public` member functions and the declarations of its `private` data members.
- It's better software engineering to define member functions outside the class definition, so that their implementation details can be hidden from the client code.
  - Ensures that you do not write client code that depends on the class's implementation details.
- The program of Figs. 3.11–3.13 separates class `GradeBook`'s interface from its implementation by splitting the class definition of Fig. 3.9 into two files—the header file `GradeBook.h` (Fig. 3.11) in which class `GradeBook` is defined, and the source-code file `GradeBook.cpp` (Fig. 3.12) in which `GradeBook`'s member functions are defined.

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

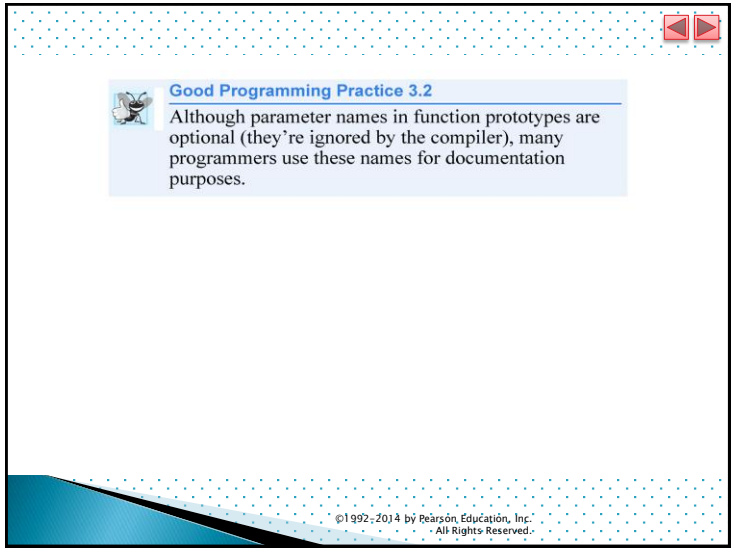
- By convention, member-function definitions are placed in a source-code file of the same base name (e.g., `GradeBook`) as the class's header file but with a `.cpp` filename extension.
- Figure 3.14 shows how this three-file program is compiled from the perspectives of the `GradeBook` class programmer and the client-code programmer—we'll explain this figure in detail.

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

- Header file `GradeBook.h` (Fig. 3.11) is similar to the one in Fig. 3.9, but the function definitions in Fig. 3.9 are replaced here with function prototypes (lines 11–14) that describe the class's `public` interface without revealing the class's member-function implementations.
- A function prototype is a declaration of a function that tells the compiler the function's name, its return type and the types of its parameters.
- Including the header file `GradeBook.h` in the client code (line 5 of Fig. 3.13) provides the compiler with the information it needs to ensure that the client code calls the member functions of class `GradeBook` correctly.

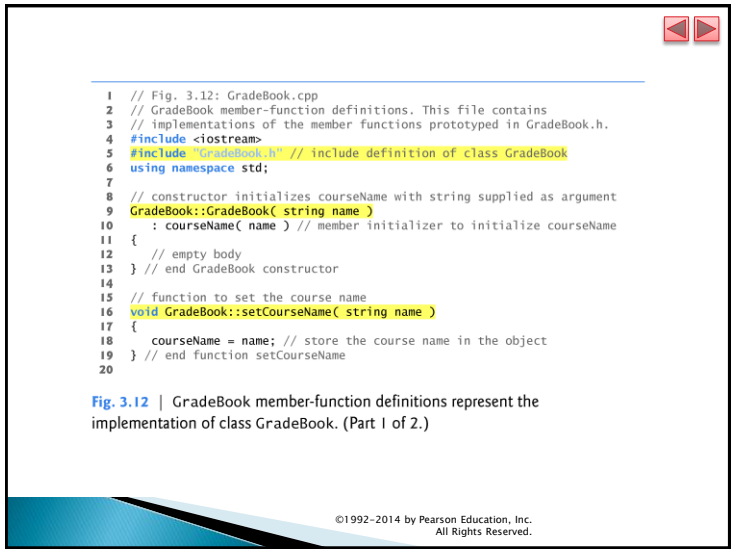

```
1  // Fig. 3.11: GradeBook.h
2  // GradeBook class definition. This file presents GradeBook's public
3  // interface without revealing the implementations of GradeBook's member
4  // functions, which are defined in GradeBook.cpp.
5  #include <string> // class GradeBook uses C++ standard string class
6
7  // GradeBook class definition
8  class GradeBook
9  {
10 public:
11    explicit GradeBook( std::string ); // constructor initialize courseName
12    void setCourseName( std::string ); // sets the course name
13    std::string getCourseName() const; // gets the course name
14    void displayMessage() const; // displays a welcome message
15 private:
16    std::string courseName; // course name for this GradeBook
17 }; // end class GradeBook
```

Fig. 3.11 | GradeBook class definition containing function prototypes that specify the interface of the class.



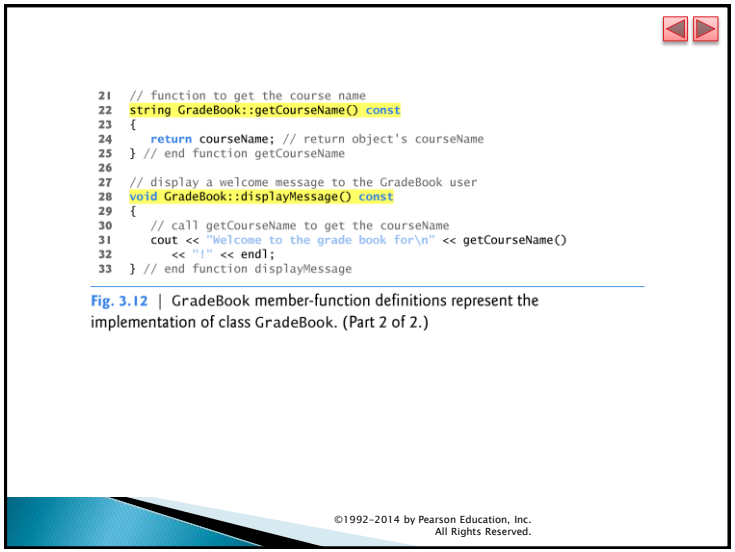
3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

- Source-code file `GradeBook.cpp` (Fig. 3.12) *defines* class `GradeBook`'s member functions, which were declared in lines 11–14 of Fig. 3.11.
- Each member-function name (lines 9, 16, 22 and 28) is preceded by the class name and `::`, which is known as the scope resolution operator.
- This "ties" each member function to the (now separate) `GradeBook` class definition (Fig. 3.11), which declares the class's member functions and data members.



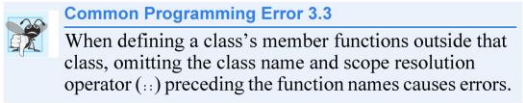
```
1  // Fig. 3.12: GradeBook.cpp
2  // GradeBook member-function definitions. This file contains
3  // implementations of the member functions prototyped in GradeBook.h.
4  #include <iostream>
5  #include "GradeBook.h" // include definition of class GradeBook
6  using namespace std;
7
8  // constructor initializes courseName with string supplied as argument
9  GradeBook::GradeBook( string name )
10    : courseName( name ) // member initializer to initialize courseName
11 {
12    // empty body
13 } // end GradeBook constructor
14
15 // function to set the course name
16 void GradeBook::setCourseName( string name )
17 {
18    courseName = name; // store the course name in the object
19 } // end function setCourseName
20
```

Fig. 3.12 | GradeBook member-function definitions represent the implementation of class GradeBook. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
21 // function to get the course name
22 string GradeBook::getCourseName() const
23 {
24    return courseName; // return object's courseName
25 } // end function getCourseName
26
27 // display a welcome message to the GradeBook user
28 void GradeBook::displayMessage() const
29 {
30    // call getCourseName to get the courseName
31    cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << getCourseName()
32       << "!" << endl;
33 } // end function displayMessage
```

Fig. 3.12 | GradeBook member-function definitions represent the implementation of class GradeBook. (Part 2 of 2.)



Common Programming Error 3.3

When defining a class's member functions outside that class, omitting the class name and scope resolution operator (::) preceding the function names causes errors.

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

- To indicate that the member functions in `GradeBook.cpp` are part of class `GradeBook`, we must first include the `GradeBook.h` header file (line 5 of Fig. 3.12).
- This allows us to access the class name `GradeBook` in the `GradeBook.cpp` file.
- When compiling `GradeBook.cpp`, the compiler uses the information in `GradeBook.h` to ensure that
  - the first line of each member function matches its prototype in the `GradeBook.h` file, and that
  - each member function knows about the class's data members and other member functions


```
1  // Fig. 3.13: fig03_13.cpp
2  // GradeBook class demonstration after separating
3  // its interface from its implementation.
4  #include <iostream>
5  #include "GradeBook.h" // include definition of class GradeBook
6  using namespace std;
7
8  // function main begins program execution
9  int main()
10 {
11    // create two GradeBook objects
12    GradeBook gradeBook1( "CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming" );
13    GradeBook gradeBook2( "CS102 Data Structures in C++" );
14
15    // display initial value of courseName for each GradeBook
16    cout << "gradeBook1 created for course: " << gradeBook1.getCourseName()
17       << "\ngradeBook2 created for course: " << gradeBook2.getCourseName()
18       << endl;
19 } // end main
```

```
gradeBook1 created for course: CS101 Introduction to C++ Programming
gradeBook2 created for course: CS102 Data Structures in C++
```

Fig. 3.13 | GradeBook class demonstration after separating its interface from its implementation.

3.7 Separating Interface from Implementation (cont.)

- Before executing this program, the source-code files in Fig. 3.12 and Fig. 3.13 must both be compiled, then linked together—that is, the member-function calls in the client code need to be tied to the implementations of the class's member functions—a job performed by the linker.
- The diagram in Fig. 3.14 shows the compilation and linking process that results in an executable `GradeBook` application that can be used by instructors.

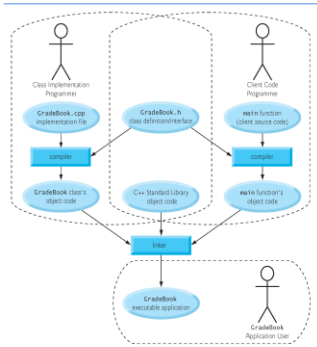


Fig. 3.14 | Compilation and linking process that produces an executable application.

3.8 Validating Data with *set Functions*

- The program of Figs. 3.15–3.17 enhances class `GradeBook`'s member function `setCourseName` to perform validation (also known as validity checking).
- Since the interface of the class remains unchanged, clients of this class need not be changed when the definition of member function `setCourseName` is modified.
- This enables clients to take advantage of the improved `GradeBook` class simply by linking the client code to the updated `GradeBook`'s object code.


```
1  // Fig. 3.15: GradeBook.h
2  // GradeBook class definition presents the public interface of
3  // the class. Member-function definitions appear in GradeBook.cpp.
4  #include <string> // program uses C++ standard string class
5
6  // GradeBook class definition
7  class GradeBook
8  {
9  public:
10    explicit GradeBook( std::string ); // constructor initialize courseName
11    void setCourseName( std::string ); // sets the course name
12    std::string getCourseName() const; // gets the course name
13    void displayMessage() const; // displays a welcome message
14 private:
15    std::string courseName; // course name for this GradeBook
16 }; // end class GradeBook
```

Fig. 3.15 | GradeBook class definition presents the `public` interface of the class.

3.8 Validating Data with *set Functions (cont.)*

- The C++ Standard Library's `string` class defines a member function `length` that returns the number of characters in a `string` object.
- A consistent state is a state in which the object's data member contains a valid value.
- Class `string` provides member function `substr` (short for "substring") that returns a new `string` object created by copying part of an existing `string` object.
  - The first argument specifies the starting position in the original `string` from which characters are copied.
  - The second argument specifies the number of characters to copy.

3.10 Validating Data with *set Functions (cont.)*

- Figure 3.17 demonstrates the modified version of class `GradeBook` (Figs. 3.15–3.16) featuring validation.
- In previous versions of the class, the benefit of calling `setCourseName` in the constructor was not evident.
- Now, however, *the constructor takes advantage of the validation* provided by `setCourseName`.
- The constructor simply calls `setCourseName`, *rather than duplicating* its validation code.


```
1  // Fig. 3.16: GradeBook.cpp
2  // Implementations of the GradeBook member-function definitions.
3  // The setCourseName function performs validation.
4  #include <iostream>
5  #include "GradeBook.h" // include definition of class GradeBook
6  using namespace std;
7
8  // constructor initializes courseName with string supplied as argument
9  GradeBook::GradeBook( string name )
10 {
11    setCourseName( name ); // validate and store courseName
12 } // end GradeBook constructor
13
```

Fig. 3.16 | Member-function definitions for class `GradeBook` with a *set* function that validates the length of data member `courseName`. (Part 1 of 3.)


```
14 // function that sets the course name;
15 // ensures that the course name has at most 25 characters
16 void GradeBook::setCourseName( string name )
17 {
18    if ( name.size() <= 25 ) // if name has 25 or fewer characters
19       courseName = name; // store the course name in the object
20
21    if ( name.size() > 25 ) // if name has more than 25 characters
22    {
23       // set courseName to first 25 characters of parameter name
24       courseName = name.substr( 0, 25 ); // start at 0, length of 25
25
26       cerr << "Name \"" << name << "\" exceeds maximum length (25).\n"
27          << "Limiting courseName to first 25 characters.\n" << endl;
28    } // end if
29 } // end function setCourseName
30
31 // function to get the course name
32 string GradeBook::getCourseName() const
33 {
34    return courseName; // return object's courseName
35 } // end function getCourseName
```

Fig. 3.16 | Member-function definitions for class `GradeBook` with a *set* function that validates the length of data member `courseName`. (Part 2 of 3.)


```
36
37 // display a welcome message to the GradeBook user
38 void GradeBook::displayMessage() const
39 {
40    // call getCourseName to get the courseName
41    cout << "Welcome to the grade book for\n" << getCourseName()
42       << "!" << endl;
43 } // end function displayMessage
```

Fig. 3.16 | Member-function definitions for class `GradeBook` with a *set* function that validates the length of data member `courseName`. (Part 3 of 3.)

```
1  // Fig. 3.17: fig03_17.cpp
2  // Create and manipulate a GradeBook object; illustrate validation.
3  #include <iostream>
4  #include "GradeBook.h" // include definition of class GradeBook
5  using namespace std;
6
7  // function main begins program execution
8  int main()
9  {
10    // create two GradeBook objects;
11    // initial course name of gradeBook1 is too long
12    GradeBook gradeBook1( "CS101 Introduction to Programming in C++" );
13    GradeBook gradeBook2( "CS102 C++ Data Structures" );
14
15    // display each GradeBook's courseName
16    cout << "gradeBook1's initial course name is: "
17       << gradeBook1.getCourseName()
18       << "\ngradeBook2's initial course name is: "
19       << gradeBook2.getCourseName() << endl;
20
21    // modify gradeBook1's courseName (with a valid-length string)
22    gradeBook1.setCourseName( "CS101 C++ Programming" );
```

Fig. 3.17 | Creating and manipulating a GradeBook object in which the course name is limited to 25 characters in length. (Part 1 of 2.)


```
23
24    // display each GradeBook's courseName
25    cout << "\ngradeBook1's course name is: "
26       << gradeBook1.getCourseName()
27       << "\ngradeBook2's course name is: "
28       << gradeBook2.getCourseName() << endl;
29 } // end main
```

```
Name "CS101 Introduction to Programming in C++" exceeds maximum length (25).
Limiting courseName to first 25 characters.

gradeBook1's initial course name is: CS101 Introduction to Pro
gradeBook2's initial course name is: CS102 C++ Data Structures

gradeBook1's course name is: CS101 C++ Programming
gradeBook2's course name is: CS102 C++ Data Structures
```

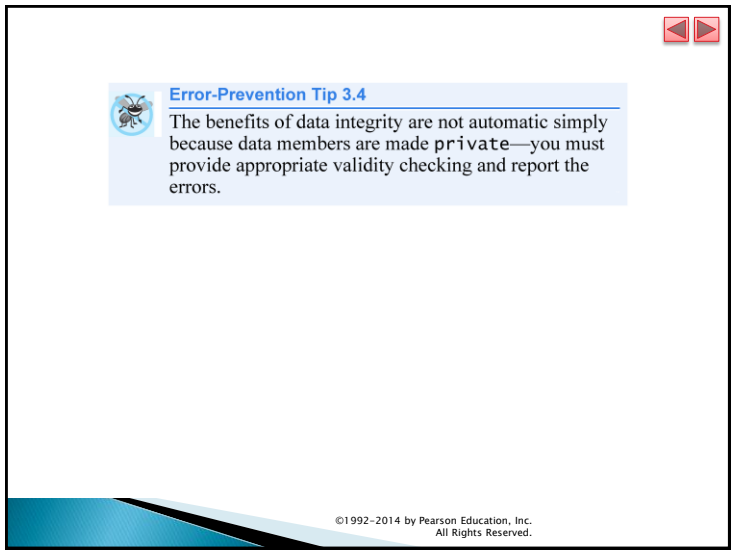
Fig. 3.17 | Creating and manipulating a GradeBook object in which the course name is limited to 25 characters in length. (Part 2 of 2.)

3.8 Validating Data with *set Functions (cont.)*

- A `public` *set* function such as `setCourseName` should carefully scrutinize any attempt to modify the value of a data member (e.g., `courseName`) to ensure that the new value is appropriate for that data item.
- A *set* function could return a value indicating that an attempt was made to assign invalid data to an object of the class.
- A client could then test the return value of the *set* function to determine whether the attempt to modify the object was successful and to take appropriate action if not.

Software Engineering Observation 3.3

Making data members `private` and controlling access, especially write access, to those data members through `public` member functions helps ensure data integrity.



Error-Prevention Tip 3.4

The benefits of data integrity are not automatic simply because data members are made `private`—you must provide appropriate validity checking and report the errors.