

# Constructors

There is exactly one way to create an instance of a user-defined type: name fields at once:

```
struct Foo {  
    a: u8,  
    b: u32,  
    c: bool,  
}  
  
enum Bar {  
    X(u32),  
    Y(bool),  
}  
  
struct Unit;  
  
let foo = Foo { a: 0, b: 1, c: false };  
let bar = Bar::X(0);  
let empty = Unit;
```

That's it. Every other way you make an instance of a type is just calling a tool that does some stuff and eventually bottoms out to The One True Constructor.

Unlike C++, Rust does not come with a slew of built-in kinds of constructor. Default, Assignment, Move, or whatever constructors. The reasons for this boils down to Rust's philosophy of *being explicit*.

Move constructors are meaningless in Rust because we don't enable types location in memory. Every type must be ready for it to be blindly memcopied into memory. This means pure on-the-stack-but-still-movable intrusive linked lists are not happening in Rust (safely).

Assignment and copy constructors similarly don't exist because move semantics in Rust. At most `x = y` just moves the bits of `y` into the `x` variable. Rust provides facilities for providing C++'s copy-oriented semantics: `copy` and `clone`. `Clone` is the equivalent of a copy constructor, but it's never implicitly invoked. You have to call `clone` on an element you want to be cloned. `Copy` is a special case of `Clone` where `clone` just "copy the bits". `Copy` types *are* implicitly cloned whenever they're moved. The definition of `Copy` this just means not treating the old copy as uninitialized.

While Rust provides a `Default` trait for specifying the moral equivalent of a default constructor, it's incredibly rare for this trait to be used. This is because variables *aren't implicitly initialized*, basically only useful for generic programming. In concrete contexts, a type doesn't have a method for any kind of "default" constructor. This has no relation to `new` in C++; it has no special meaning. It's just a naming convention.

TODO: talk about "placement new"?