**Comments.**

As noted above, comments do not affect the operation of the program; however, they provide an important tool to document directly within the source code what the program does and how it operates.

C++ supports two ways of commenting code:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 2 | // line comment  /\* block comment \*/ |  |

The first of them, known as *line comment*, discards everything from where the pair of slash signs (//) are found up to the end of that same line. The second one, known as *block comment*, discards everything between the /\* characters and the first appearance of the \*/ characters, with the possibility of including multiple lines.

Let's add comments to our second program:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | /\* my second program in C++  with more comments \*/  #include <iostream>  int main ()  {  std::cout << "Hello World! "; // prints Hello World!  std::cout << "I'm a C++ program"; // prints I'm a C++ program  } | Hello World! I'm a C++ program | [Edit & Run](https://cplusplus.com/doc/tutorial/program_structure/) |

If comments are included within the source code of a program without using the comment characters combinations //, /\* or \*/, the compiler takes them as if they were C++ expressions, most likely causing the compilation to fail with one, or several, error messages.