

## **EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR**

## **EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR**

**LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF  
THE CODE WE JUST RAN**

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

```
Vitthals-MacBook-Pro:~ vitthalsrinivasan$ ./a.out  
No arg-constructor called  
Hello there  
real = 7.29249e+19 complex = 4.59163e-41  
  
real = 3.14 complex = 5.30key-dokey! All done!
```

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING ODD?

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

DO YOU SEE  
ANYTHING ODD?

```
Vitthals-MacBook-Pro:~ vitthalsrinivasan$ ./a.out
```

```
No arg-constructor called
```

```
Hello there
```

```
real = 7.29249e+19 complex = 4.59163e-41
```

```
real = 3.14 complex = 5.30key-dokey! All done!
```

WHY DID THE FIRST  
PRINT DISPLAY  
GARBAGE VALUES?

```
ComplexNumber c;
```

```
cout<< "Hello there" <<endl;
```

```
c.print();
```

```
cout<<endl;
```

```
c.setMemberVariables(3.14,5.3);
```

```
cout<<endl;
```

```
c.print();
```

```
cout<<"key-dokey! All done!"<<endl;
```

```
}
```



## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

```
Vitthals-MacBook-Pro:~ vitthalsrinivasan$ ./a.out  
No arg-constructor called  
Hello there  
real = 7.29249e+19 complex = 4.59163e-41
```

WHY DID THE FIRST PRINT DISPLAY GARBAGE VALUES?

```
ComplexNumber()  
{  
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;  
}
```

ITS BECAUSE OUR CONSTRUCTOR DID NOT INITIALISE THE MEMBER VARIABLES AT ALL!

## **EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR**

**LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN**

```
ComplexNumber()  
{  
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;  
}
```

**ITS BECAUSE OUR CONSTRUCTOR DID NOT INITIALISE THE MEMBER VARIABLES AT ALL!**

**OUR CONSTRUCTOR WAS ENTIRELY USELESS**

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

THIS IS A SPECIAL BIT OF CODE, AFTER THE NAME  
OF THE CONSTRUCTOR, BUT BEFORE THE BODY



## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

DELIMITED BY A COLON

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

FOLLOWED BY CALLS TO THE CONSTRUCTORS  
OF THE MEMBER VARIABLES OF THE OBJECT

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

BTW, IN C++, YOU CAN AND SHOULD USE  
CONSTRUCTORS EVEN FOR BASIC TYPES SUCH AS  
FLOATS..

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

C TRANSLATION:

realPart = 0.0, complexPart = 0.0



## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

LET'S DO THIS THE RIGHT WAY -  
USING AN INITIALISATION LIST

```
ComplexNumber() : realPart(0.0), complexPart(0.0)
{
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT  
JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?

```
ComplexNumber()
{
    realPart = 0.0;
    complexPart = 0.0;
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
}
```

LIKE THIS?

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?

```
ComplexNumber()  
{  
    realPart = 0.0;  
    complexPart = 0.0;  
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;  
}
```

LIKE THIS?

EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT QUESTION!!

## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?



```
ComplexNumber()
```

```
// member variables already exist by this point
```

```
{
```

```
    realPart = 0.0;
```

```
    complexPart = 0.0;
```

```
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
```

```
}
```



## EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR

LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN

WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?

```
ComplexNumber()
```

```
// member variables already exist by this point
```

```
{
```

```
    realPart = 0.0;
```

```
    complexPart = 0.0;
```

```
    cout << "No arg-constructor called" << endl;
```

```
}
```

this is reassignment, not fresh construction!

## **EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR**

**LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN**

**WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?**

**AN INITIALISATION LIST IS REQUIRED TO MAKE SURE THAT MEMBER VARIABLES ARE CONSTRUCTED CORRECTLY THE FIRST TIME AROUND (NOT MERELY REASSIGNED)**

## **EXAMPLE 4: CORRECTLY USE AN INITIALISATION LIST IN A CONSTRUCTOR**

**LET'S GO BACK TO THE OUTPUT OF THE CODE WE JUST RAN**

**WHY DO WE NEED AN INITIALISATION LIST? COULD WE NOT JUST ASSIGN VALUES INSIDE THE CONSTRUCTOR BODY?**

**AN INITIALISATION LIST IS REQUIRED TO MAKE SURE THAT MEMBER VARIABLES ARE CONSTRUCTED CORRECTLY THE FIRST TIME AROUND (NOT MERELY REASSIGNED)**

**WHEN WE GET TO INHERITANCE WE WILL SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS.**