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# How to Count Variable Numbers of Arguments in C?

C supports variable numbers of arguments. But there is no language provided way for finding out total number of arguments passed. User has to handle this in one of the following ways:

- 1) By passing first argument as count of arguments.
- 2) By passing last argument as NULL (or 0).
- 3) Using some printf (or scanf) like mechanism where first argument has placeholders for rest of the arguments.

Following is an example that uses first argument arg\_count to hold count of other arguments.

```
#include <stdarg.h>
#include <stdio.h>
// this function returns minimum of integer numbers passed. First
// argument is count of numbers.
int min(int arg count, ...)
  int i;
 int min, a;
  // va list is a type to hold information about variable arguments
 va list ap;
 // va start must be called before accessing variable argument list
 va_start(ap, arg count);
 // Now arguments can be accessed one by one using va arg macro
 // Initialize min as first argument in list
 min = va_arg(ap, int);
  // traverse rest of the arguments to find out minimum
 for(i = 2; i <= arg count; i++) {</pre>
   if((a = va_arg(ap, int)) < min)</pre>
     min = a;
  //va end should be executed before the function returns whenever
  // va start has been previously used in that function
  va end(ap);
  return min;
int main()
  int count = 5;
   // Find minimum of 5 numbers: (12, 67, 6, 7, 100)
  printf("Minimum value is %d", min(count, 12, 67, 6, 7, 100));
  getchar();
   return 0;
```

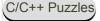
#### Output:

Minimum value is 6

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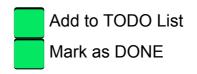


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