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A Swift Tour

Tradition suggests that the first program in a new language should print the words "Hello, world!" on the screen. In Swift, this can be done in a single line:

```
print("Hello, world!")
// Prints "Hello, world!"
```

If you have written code in C or Objective-C, this syntax looks familiar to you—in Swift, this line of code is a complete program. You don't need to import a separate library for functionality like input/output or string handling. Code written at global scope is used as the entry point for the program, so you don't need a main() function. You also don't need to write semicolons at the end of every statement.

This tour gives you enough information to start writing code in Swift by showing you how to accomplish a variety of programming tasks. Don't worry if you don't understand something—everything introduced in this tour is explained in detail in the rest of this book.

NOTE

For the best experience, open this chapter as a playground in Xcode. Playgrounds allow you to edit the code listings and see the result immediately.

Download Playground

Simple Values

Use let to make a constant and var to make a variable. The value of a constant doesn't need to be known at compile time, but you must assign it a value exactly once. This means you can use constants to name a value that you determine once but use in many places.

```
var myVariable = 42
myVariable = 50
let myConstant = 42
```

A constant or variable must have the same type as the value you want to assign to it. However, you don't always have to write the type explicitly. Providing a value when you create a constant or variable lets the compiler infer its type. In the example above, the compiler infers that myVariable is an integer because its initial value is an integer.

If the initial value doesn't provide enough information (or if there is no initial value), specify the type by writing it after the variable, separated by a colon.

```
1  let implicitInteger = 70
2  let implicitDouble = 70.0
3  let explicitDouble: Double = 70
```

Values are never implicitly converted to another type. If you need to convert a value to a different type, explicitly make an instance of the desired type.

Create a constant with an explicit type of Float and a value of 4.

```
1 let label = "The width is "
2 let width = 94
3 let widthLabel = label + String(width)
```

EXPERIMENT

Try removing the conversion to String from the last line. What error do you get?

There's an even simpler way to include values in strings: Write the value in parentheses, and write a backslash (\) before the parentheses. For example:

```
let apples = 3
let oranges = 5
let appleSummary = "I have \(apples\) apples."
let fruitSummary = "I have \(apples\) + oranges) pieces of fruit."
```

```
EXPERIMENT
```

Use \setminus () to include a floating-point calculation in a string and to include someone's name in a greeting.

Use three double quotation marks (""") for strings that take up multiple lines. Indentation at the start of each quoted line is removed, as long as it matches the indentation of the closing quotation marks. For example:

```
1 let quotation = """
2 I said "I have \(apples) apples."
3 And then I said "I have \(apples + oranges) pieces of fruit."
4 """
```

Create arrays and dictionaries using brackets ([]), and access their elements by writing the index or key in brackets. A comma is allowed after the last element.

```
var shoppingList = ["catfish", "water", "tulips"]
shoppingList[1] = "bottle of water"

var occupations = [
    "Malcolm": "Captain",
    "Kaylee": "Mechanic",
]
occupations["Jayne"] = "Public Relations"
```

Arrays automatically grow as you add elements.

```
shoppingList.append("blue paint")
print(shoppingList)
```

To create an empty array or dictionary, use the initializer syntax.

```
let emptyArray = [String]()
let emptyDictionary = [String: Float]()
```

If type information can be inferred, you can write an empty array as [] and an empty dictionary as [:]—for example, when you set a new value for a variable or pass an argument to a function.

```
shoppingList = []
ccupations = [:]
```

Control Flow

Use if and switch to make conditionals, and use for-in, while, and repeat-while to make loops. Parentheses around the condition or loop variable are optional. Braces around the body are required.

```
let individualScores = [75, 43, 103, 87, 12]
2
     var teamScore = 0
     for score in individualScores {
3
         if score > 50 {
4
5
             teamScore += 3
         } else {
6
             teamScore += 1
7
         }
8
     }
9
     print(teamScore)
10
     // Prints "11"
11
```

In an if statement, the conditional must be a Boolean expression—this means that code such as if score { ... } is an error, not an implicit comparison to zero.

You can use if and let together to work with values that might be missing. These values are represented as optionals. An optional value either contains a value or contains nil to indicate that a value is missing. Write a question mark (?) after the type of a value to mark the value as optional.

```
var optionalString: String? = "Hello"
print(optionalString == nil)
```

```
// Prints "false"

var optionalName: String? = "John Appleseed"

var greeting = "Hello!"

if let name = optionalName {
   greeting = "Hello, \((name)\)"
}
```

Change optionalName to nil. What greeting do you get? Add an else clause that sets a different greeting if optionalName is nil.

If the optional value is nil, the conditional is false and the code in braces is skipped. Otherwise, the optional value is unwrapped and assigned to the constant after let, which makes the unwrapped value available inside the block of code.

Another way to handle optional values is to provide a default value using the ?? operator. If the optional value is missing, the default value is used instead.

```
let nickName: String? = nil
let fullName: String = "John Appleseed"
let informalGreeting = "Hi \(nickName ?? fullName)"
```

Switches support any kind of data and a wide variety of comparison operations—they aren't limited to integers and tests for equality.

```
let vegetable = "red pepper"
1
     switch vegetable {
2
     case "celery":
3
         print("Add some raisins and make ants on a log.")
4
     case "cucumber", "watercress":
5
         print("That would make a good tea sandwich.")
6
     case let x where x.hasSuffix("pepper"):
7
         print("Is it a spicy \(x)?")
8
9
     default:
         print("Everything tastes good in soup.")
10
     }
11
    // Prints "Is it a spicy red pepper?"
12
```

Try removing the default case. What error do you get?

Notice how let can be used in a pattern to assign the value that matched the pattern to a constant.

After executing the code inside the switch case that matched, the program exits from the switch statement. Execution doesn't continue to the next case, so there is no need to explicitly break out of the switch at the end of each case's code.

You use for-in to iterate over items in a dictionary by providing a pair of names to use for each key-value pair. Dictionaries are an unordered collection, so their keys and values are iterated over in an arbitrary order.

```
let interestingNumbers = [
1
         "Prime": [2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13],
2
         "Fibonacci": [1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8],
3
         "Square": [1, 4, 9, 16, 25],
4
5
     var largest = 0
6
     for (kind, numbers) in interestingNumbers {
7
         for number in numbers {
8
             if number > largest {
9
                 largest = number
10
             }
11
         }
12
13
     print(largest)
14
     // Prints "25"
15
```

EXPERIMENT

Add another variable to keep track of which kind of number was the largest, as well as what that largest number was.

Use while to repeat a block of code until a condition changes. The condition of a loop can be at the end instead, ensuring that the loop is run at least once.

```
var n = 2
while n < 100 {</pre>
```

```
3
        n *= 2
4
     print(n)
5
     // Prints "128"
6
7
8
     var m = 2
9
    repeat {
10
         m *= 2
     } while m < 100
11
12
     print(m)
     // Prints "128"
13
```

You can keep an index in a loop by using ... < to make a range of indexes.

```
var total = 0
for i in 0..<4 {
    total += i
}
print(total)
// Prints "6"</pre>
```

Use ... < to make a range that omits its upper value, and use ... to make a range that includes both values.

Functions and Closures

Use func to declare a function. Call a function by following its name with a list of arguments in parentheses. Use -> to separate the parameter names and types from the function's return type.

```
func greet(person: String, day: String) -> String {
    return "Hello \((person), today is \((day).")
}
greet(person: "Bob", day: "Tuesday")
```

EXPERIMENT

Remove the day parameter. Add a parameter to include today's lunch special in the greeting.

By default, functions use their parameter names as labels for their arguments. Write a custom argument label before the parameter name, or write _ to use no argument label.

```
func greet(_ person: String, on day: String) -> String {
   return "Hello \(person), today is \(day)."
}
greet("John", on: "Wednesday")
```

Use a tuple to make a compound value—for example, to return multiple values from a function. The elements of a tuple can be referred to either by name or by number.

```
func calculateStatistics(scores: [Int]) -> (min: Int, max:
1
       Int, sum: Int) {
         var min = scores[0]
2
         var max = scores[0]
3
         var sum = 0
4
5
         for score in scores {
6
7
             if score > max {
8
                  max = score
             } else if score < min {</pre>
9
                  min = score
10
             }
11
12
             sum += score
         }
13
14
15
         return (min, max, sum)
16
     }
     let statistics = calculateStatistics(scores: [5, 3, 100, 3,
17
     print(statistics.sum)
18
     // Prints "120"
19
     print(statistics.2)
20
     // Prints "120"
21
```

Functions can be nested. Nested functions have access to variables that were declared in the outer function. You can use nested functions to organize the code in a function that is long or complex.

```
func returnFifteen() -> Int {
1
2
        var y = 10
3
        func add() {
4
             y += 5
5
        }
        add()
6
7
        return y
8
    }
    returnFifteen()
```

Functions are a first-class type. This means that a function can return another function as its value.

```
func makeIncrementer() -> ((Int) -> Int) {
   func addOne(number: Int) -> Int {
      return 1 + number
   }
   return addOne
}

var increment = makeIncrementer()
increment(7)
```

A function can take another function as one of its arguments.

```
1
     func hasAnyMatches(list: [Int], condition: (Int) -> Bool) ->
       Bool {
2
         for item in list {
              if condition(item) {
3
4
                  return true
              }
5
6
         return false
7
     }
8
     func lessThanTen(number: Int) -> Bool {
9
         return number < 10</pre>
10
     }
11
```

```
var numbers = [20, 19, 7, 12]
hasAnyMatches(list: numbers, condition: lessThanTen)
```

Functions are actually a special case of closures: blocks of code that can be called later. The code in a closure has access to things like variables and functions that were available in the scope where the closure was created, even if the closure is in a different scope when it is executed—you saw an example of this already with nested functions. You can write a closure without a name by surrounding code with braces ({}}). Use in to separate the arguments and return type from the body.

```
numbers.map({ (number: Int) -> Int in
let result = 3 * number
return result
})
```

EXPERIMENT

Rewrite the closure to return zero for all odd numbers.

You have several options for writing closures more concisely. When a closure's type is already known, such as the callback for a delegate, you can omit the type of its parameters, its return type, or both. Single statement closures implicitly return the value of their only statement.

```
let mappedNumbers = numbers.map({ number in 3 * number })
print(mappedNumbers)
// Prints "[60, 57, 21, 36]"
```

You can refer to parameters by number instead of by name—this approach is especially useful in very short closures. A closure passed as the last argument to a function can appear immediately after the parentheses. When a closure is the only argument to a function, you can omit the parentheses entirely.

```
let sortedNumbers = numbers.sorted { $0 > $1 }
print(sortedNumbers)
// Prints "[20, 19, 12, 7]"
```

Objects and Classes

Use class followed by the class's name to create a class. A property declaration in a class is written the same way as a constant or variable declaration, except that it is in the context of a class. Likewise, method and function declarations are written the same way.

```
class Shape {
   var numberOfSides = 0
   func simpleDescription() -> String {
      return "A shape with \(numberOfSides\) sides."
   }
}
```

EXPERIMENT

Add a constant property with let, and add another method that takes an argument.

Create an instance of a class by putting parentheses after the class name. Use dot syntax to access the properties and methods of the instance.

```
var shape = Shape()
shape.numberOfSides = 7
var shapeDescription = shape.simpleDescription()
```

This version of the Shape class is missing something important: an initializer to set up the class when an instance is created. Use init to create one.

```
1
     class NamedShape {
2
         var numberOfSides: Int = 0
3
         var name: String
4
         init(name: String) {
5
             self.name = name
6
7
         }
8
         func simpleDescription() -> String {
9
              return "A shape with \(numberOfSides) sides."
10
         }
11
     }
12
```

Notice how self is used to distinguish the name property from the name argument to the initializer. The arguments to the initializer are passed like a function call when you create an instance of the class. Every property needs a value assigned—either in its declaration (as with numberOfSides) or in the initializer (as with name).

Use deinit to create a deinitializer if you need to perform some cleanup before the object is deallocated.

Subclasses include their superclass name after their class name, separated by a colon. There is no requirement for classes to subclass any standard root class, so you can include or omit a superclass as needed.

Methods on a subclass that override the superclass's implementation are marked with override—overriding a method by accident, without override, is detected by the compiler as an error. The compiler also detects methods with override that don't actually override any method in the superclass.

```
class Square: NamedShape {
1
2
         var sideLength: Double
3
         init(sideLength: Double, name: String) {
4
             self.sideLength = sideLength
5
             super.init(name: name)
6
             numberOfSides = 4
7
         }
8
9
         func area() -> Double {
10
11
             return sideLength * sideLength
         }
12
13
14
         override func simpleDescription() -> String {
             return "A square with sides of length \
15
       (sideLength)."
         }
16
17
18
     let test = Square(sideLength: 5.2, name: "my test square")
19
     test.area()
     test.simpleDescription()
20
```

EXPERIMENT

Make another subclass of NamedShape called Circle that takes a radius and a name as arguments to its initializer. Implement an area() and a simpleDescription() method on the Circle class.

In addition to simple properties that are stored, properties can have a getter and a setter.

```
1
     class EquilateralTriangle: NamedShape {
2
         var sideLength: Double = 0.0
3
         init(sideLength: Double, name: String) {
4
             self.sideLength = sideLength
5
             super.init(name: name)
6
             numberOfSides = 3
7
         }
8
9
         var perimeter: Double {
10
             get {
11
12
                 return 3.0 * sideLength
             }
13
             set {
14
15
                 sideLength = newValue / 3.0
             }
16
17
         }
18
         override func simpleDescription() -> String {
19
             return "An equilateral triangle with sides of length
20
      \(sideLength)."
21
         }
22
     }
     var triangle = EquilateralTriangle(sideLength: 3.1, name: "a
23
      triangle")
24
     print(triangle.perimeter)
     // Prints "9.3"
25
    triangle perimeter = 9.9
26
27
     print(triangle.sideLength)
28
     // Prints "3.3000000000000003"
```

In the setter for perimeter, the new value has the implicit name newValue. You can provide an explicit name in parentheses after set.

Notice that the initializer for the EquilateralTriangle class has three different steps:

- 1. Setting the value of properties that the subclass declares.
- 2. Calling the superclass's initializer.
- 3. Changing the value of properties defined by the superclass. Any additional setup work that uses methods, getters, or setters can also be done at this point.

If you don't need to compute the property but still need to provide code that is run before and after setting a new value, use willSet and didSet. The code you provide is run any time the value changes outside of an initializer. For example, the class below ensures that the side length of its triangle is always the same as the side length of its square.

```
1
     class TriangleAndSquare {
         var triangle: EquilateralTriangle {
2
             willSet {
3
                 square.sideLength = newValue.sideLength
4
             }
5
6
         var square: Square {
7
             willSet {
8
                 triangle.sideLength = newValue.sideLength
9
             }
10
         }
11
         init(size: Double, name: String) {
12
             square = Square(sideLength: size, name: name)
13
             triangle = EquilateralTriangle(sideLength: size,
14
      name: name)
15
         }
16
     var triangleAndSquare = TriangleAndSquare(size: 10, name:
17
      "another test shape")
     print(triangleAndSquare.square.sideLength)
18
     // Prints "10.0"
19
     print(triangleAndSquare.triangle.sideLength)
20
```

```
// Prints "10.0"
triangleAndSquare.square = Square(sideLength: 50, name:
    "larger square")
print(triangleAndSquare.triangle.sideLength)
// Prints "50.0"
```

When working with optional values, you can write? before operations like methods, properties, and subscripting. If the value before the? is nil, everything after the? is ignored and the value of the whole expression is nil. Otherwise, the optional value is unwrapped, and everything after the? acts on the unwrapped value. In both cases, the value of the whole expression is an optional value.

```
let optionalSquare: Square? = Square(sideLength: 2.5, name:
    "optional square")
let sideLength = optionalSquare?.sideLength
```

Enumerations and Structures

Use enum to create an enumeration. Like classes and all other named types, enumerations can have methods associated with them.

```
1
     enum Rank: Int {
2
         case ace = 1
3
         case two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine,
      ten
4
         case jack, queen, king
5
         func simpleDescription() -> String {
6
7
             switch self {
             case .ace:
8
                  return "ace"
9
             case jack:
10
                 return "jack"
11
12
             case .queen:
13
                 return "queen"
             case king:
14
                  return "king"
15
             default:
16
```

```
return String(self.rawValue)

return String(self.rawValue)

}

let ace = Rank.ace
let aceRawValue = ace.rawValue
```

Write a function that compares two Rank values by comparing their raw values.

By default, Swift assigns the raw values starting at zero and incrementing by one each time, but you can change this behavior by explicitly specifying values. In the example above, Ace is explicitly given a raw value of 1, and the rest of the raw values are assigned in order. You can also use strings or floating-point numbers as the raw type of an enumeration. Use the rawValue property to access the raw value of an enumeration case.

Use the init?(rawValue:) initializer to make an instance of an enumeration from a raw value. It returns either the enumeration case matching the raw value or nil if there is no matching Rank.

```
if let convertedRank = Rank(rawValue: 3) {
    let threeDescription = convertedRank.simpleDescription()
}
```

The case values of an enumeration are actual values, not just another way of writing their raw values. In fact, in cases where there isn't a meaningful raw value, you don't have to provide one.

```
1
     enum Suit {
2
         case spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs
3
         func simpleDescription() -> String {
4
             switch self {
5
             case .spades:
6
7
                  return "spades"
             case .hearts:
8
                  return "hearts"
9
10
             case diamonds:
```

```
return "diamonds"
11
12
             case clubs:
                  return "clubs"
13
             }
14
15
         }
     }
16
17
     let hearts = Suit.hearts
18
     let heartsDescription = hearts.simpleDescription()
```

Add a color() method to Suit that returns "black" for spades and clubs, and returns "red" for hearts and diamonds.

Notice the two ways that the hearts case of the enumeration is referred to above: When assigning a value to the hearts constant, the enumeration case Suit.hearts is referred to by its full name because the constant doesn't have an explicit type specified. Inside the switch, the enumeration case is referred to by the abbreviated form .hearts because the value of self is already known to be a suit. You can use the abbreviated form anytime the value's type is already known.

If an enumeration has raw values, those values are determined as part of the declaration, which means every instance of a particular enumeration case always has the same raw value. Another choice for enumeration cases is to have values associated with the case—these values are determined when you make the instance, and they can be different for each instance of an enumeration case. You can think of the associated values as behaving like stored properties of the enumeration case instance. For example, consider the case of requesting the sunrise and sunset times from a server. The server either responds with the requested information, or it responds with a description of what went wrong.

```
1
    enum ServerResponse {
        case result(String, String)
2
        case failure(String)
3
    }
4
5
    let success = ServerResponse.result("6:00 am", "8:09 pm")
6
    let failure = ServerResponse.failure("Out of cheese.")
7
8
    switch success {
9
```

```
case let .result(sunrise, sunset):
    print("Sunrise is at \(sunrise) and sunset is at \
        (sunset).")

case let .failure(message):
    print("Failure... \(message)")

}

// Prints "Sunrise is at 6:00 am and sunset is at 8:09 pm."
```

Add a third case to ServerResponse and to the switch.

Notice how the sunrise and sunset times are extracted from the ServerResponse value as part of matching the value against the switch cases.

Use struct to create a structure. Structures support many of the same behaviors as classes, including methods and initializers. One of the most important differences between structures and classes is that structures are always copied when they are passed around in your code, but classes are passed by reference.

```
1
    struct Card {
        var rank: Rank
2
        var suit: Suit
3
4
        func simpleDescription() -> String {
            return "The \(rank.simpleDescription()) of \
5
      (suit.simpleDescription())"
        }
6
7
    }
    let threeOfSpades = Card(rank: .three, suit: .spades)
8
9
    let threeOfSpadesDescription =
     threeOfSpades.simpleDescription()
```

EXPERIMENT

Write a function that returns an array containing a full deck of cards, with one card of each combination of rank and suit.

Protocols and Extensions

Use protocol to declare a protocol.

```
protocol ExampleProtocol {
    var simpleDescription: String { get }
    mutating func adjust()
}
```

Classes, enumerations, and structs can all adopt protocols.

```
1
     class SimpleClass: ExampleProtocol {
         var simpleDescription: String = "A very simple class."
2
         var anotherProperty: Int = 69105
3
         func adjust() {
4
             simpleDescription += " Now 100% adjusted."
5
         }
6
7
     }
    var a = SimpleClass()
8
     a.adjust()
9
     let aDescription = a.simpleDescription
10
11
12
     struct SimpleStructure: ExampleProtocol {
         var simpleDescription: String = "A simple structure"
13
14
         mutating func adjust() {
             simpleDescription += " (adjusted)"
15
         }
16
     }
17
     var b = SimpleStructure()
18
     b.adjust()
19
     let bDescription = b.simpleDescription
20
```

EXPERIMENT

Add another requirement to ExampleProtocol. What changes do you need to make to SimpleClass and SimpleStructure so that they still conform to the protocol?

Notice the use of the mutating keyword in the declaration of SimpleStructure to mark a method that modifies the structure. The declaration of SimpleClass doesn't need any of its methods marked as mutating because methods on a class can always modify the class.

Use extension to add functionality to an existing type, such as new methods and computed properties. You can use an extension to add protocol conformance to a type that is declared elsewhere, or even to a type that you imported from a library or framework.

```
extension Int: ExampleProtocol {
1
2
         var simpleDescription: String {
3
             return "The number \(self)"
         }
4
5
         mutating func adjust() {
             self += 42
6
         }
7
8
     }
     print(7.simpleDescription)
9
     // Prints "The number 7"
10
```

EXPERIMENT

Write an extension for the Double type that adds an absoluteValue property.

You can use a protocol name just like any other named type—for example, to create a collection of objects that have different types but that all conform to a single protocol. When you work with values whose type is a protocol type, methods outside the protocol definition are not available.

```
let protocolValue: ExampleProtocol = a
print(protocolValue.simpleDescription)
// Prints "A very simple class. Now 100% adjusted."
// print(protocolValue.anotherProperty) // Uncomment to see
the error
```

Even though the variable protocolValue has a runtime type of SimpleClass, the compiler treats it as the given type of ExampleProtocol. This means that you can't accidentally access methods or properties that the class implements in addition to its protocol conformance.

Error Handling

You represent errors using any type that adopts the Error protocol.

```
1 enum PrinterError: Error {
2    case outOfPaper
3    case noToner
4    case onFire
5 }
```

Use throw to throw an error and throws to mark a function that can throw an error. If you throw an error in a function, the function returns immediately and the code that called the function handles the error.

```
func send(job: Int, toPrinter printerName: String) throws ->
   String {
   if printerName == "Never Has Toner" {
      throw PrinterError.noToner
   }
   return "Job sent"
}
```

There are several ways to handle errors. One way is to use do-catch. Inside the do block, you mark code that can throw an error by writing try in front of it. Inside the catch block, the error is automatically given the name error unless you give it a different name.

```
do {
   let printerResponse = try send(job: 1040, toPrinter: "Bi
   Sheng")
   print(printerResponse)
4  } catch {
   print(error)
6  }
7  // Prints "Job sent"
```

```
EXPERIMENT
```

Change the printer name to "Never Has Toner", so that the send(job:toPrinter:) function throws an error.

You can provide multiple catch blocks that handle specific errors. You write a pattern after catch just as you do after case in a switch.

```
1
     do {
         let printerResponse = try send(job: 1440, toPrinter:
2
      "Gutenberg")
         print(printerResponse)
3
     } catch PrinterError.onFire {
4
         print("I'll just put this over here, with the rest of
5
      the fire.")
     } catch let printerError as PrinterError {
6
7
         print("Printer error: \(printerError).")
     } catch {
8
         print(error)
9
     }
10
    // Prints "Job sent"
11
```

EXPERIMENT

Add code to throw an error inside the do block. What kind of error do you need to throw so that the error is handled by the first catch block? What about the second and third blocks?

Another way to handle errors is to use try? to convert the result to an optional. If the function throws an error, the specific error is discarded and the result is nil.

Otherwise, the result is an optional containing the value that the function returned.

```
let printerSuccess = try? send(job: 1884, toPrinter:
    "Mergenthaler")
let printerFailure = try? send(job: 1885, toPrinter: "Never
    Has Toner")
```

Use defer to write a block of code that is executed after all other code in the function, just before the function returns. The code is executed regardless of whether the function throws an error. You can use defer to write setup and cleanup code next to each other, even though they need to be executed at different times.

```
var fridgeIsOpen = false
let fridgeContent = ["milk", "eggs", "leftovers"]
```

```
func fridgeContains(_ food: String) -> Bool {
4
         fridgeIsOpen = true
5
         defer {
6
             fridgeIsOpen = false
7
         }
8
9
         let result = fridgeContent.contains(food)
10
11
         return result
12
     }
    fridgeContains("banana")
13
     print(fridgeIsOpen)
14
     // Prints "false"
15
```

Generics

Write a name inside angle brackets to make a generic function or type.

```
func makeArray<Item>(repeating item: Item, numberOfTimes:
    Int) -> [Item] {
    var result = [Item]()
    for _ in 0..<numberOfTimes {
        result.append(item)
    }
    return result
}
makeArray(repeating: "knock", numberOfTimes: 4)</pre>
```

You can make generic forms of functions and methods, as well as classes, enumerations, and structures.

```
// Reimplement the Swift standard library's optional type
enum OptionalValue<Wrapped> {
   case none
   case some(Wrapped)
}
var possibleInteger: OptionalValue<Int> = .none
possibleInteger = .some(100)
```

Use where right before the body to specify a list of requirements—for example, to require the type to implement a protocol, to require two types to be the same, or to require a class to have a particular superclass.

```
1
     func anyCommonElements<T: Sequence, U: Sequence>(_ lhs: T, _
       rhs: U) -> Bool
         where T.Element: Equatable, T.Element == U.Element
2
     {
3
         for lhsItem in lhs {
4
             for rhsItem in rhs {
5
6
                 if lhsItem == rhsItem {
7
                      return true
                 }
8
             }
9
10
         return false
11
12
     }
13
     anyCommonElements([1, 2, 3], [3])
```

EXPERIMENT

Modify the anyCommonElements(_:_:) function to make a function that returns an array of the elements that any two sequences have in common.

Writing <T: Equatable > is the same as writing <T> ... where T: Equatable.

< Version Compatibility

The Basics >

BETA SOFTWARE

This documentation contains preliminary information about an API or technology in development. This information is subject to change, and software implemented according to this documentation should be tested with final operating system software.

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