



LEARN C PROGRAMMING

c programming language

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Return pointer from functions in C

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As we have seen in last chapter how C programming language allows to return an array from a function, similar way C allows you to return a pointer from a function. To do so, you would have to declare a function returning a pointer as in the following example:

```
int * myFunction()
{
.
.
.
}
```

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using an array name which represents a pointer ie address of first array element.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <time.h>

/* function to generate and retrun random numbers. */
int * getRandom( )
{
    static int r[10];
    int i;

    /* set the seed */
    srand( (unsigned)time( NULL ) );
    for ( i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
    {
        r[i] = rand();
        printf("%d\n", r[i] );
    }

    return r;
}

/* main function to call above defined function */
int main ()
{
    /* a pointer to an int */
    int *p;
    int i;

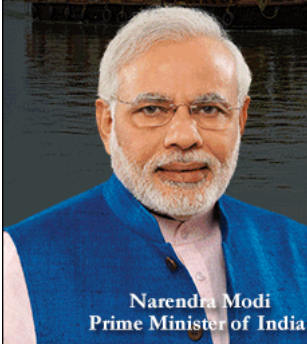
    p = getRandom();
    for ( i = 0; i < 10; i++ )
    {
        printf("(p + [%d]) : %d\n", i, *(p + i) );
    }

    return 0;
}
```

When the above code is compiled together and executed, it produces result something as follows:

```
1523198053
1187214107
1108300978
430494959
1421301276
930971084
123250484
106932140
1604461820
149169022
*(p + [0]) : 1523198053
*(p + [1]) : 1187214107
*(p + [2]) : 1108300978
*(p + [3]) : 430494959
*(p + [4]) : 1421301276
*(p + [5]) : 930971084
```

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```
*(p + [6]) : 123250484
*(p + [7]) : 106932140
*(p + [8]) : 1604461820
*(p + [9]) : 149169022
```

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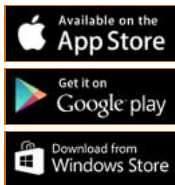
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