

LEARN C PROGRAMMING

c programming language

C Programming Tutorial

C - Home

C - Overview

C - Environment Setup

C - Program Structure

C - Basic Syntax

C - Data Types

C - Variables

C - Constants

C - Storage Classes

C - Operators

C - Decision Making

C - Loops

C - Functions

C - Scope Rules

C - Arrays

C - Pointers

C - Strings

C - Structures

C - Unions

C - Bit Fields

C - Typedef

C - Input & Output

C - File I/O

C - Preprocessors

C - Header Files

C - Type Casting

C - Error Handling

C - Recursion

C - Variable Arguments

C - Memory Management

C - Command Line Arguments

C Programming Resources

C - Questions and Answers

C - Quick Guide

C - Useful Resources

C - Discussion

Selected Reading

Previous Page

Next Page

C programming language allows you to pass a pointer to a function. To do so, simply declare the function parameter as a pointer type.

Following a simple example where we pass an unsigned long pointer to a function and change the value inside the function which reflects back in the calling function:

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

void getSeconds(unsigned long *par);

int main ()
{
    unsigned long sec;

    getSeconds( &sec );

    /* print the actual value */
    printf("Number of seconds: %ld\n", sec );

    return 0;
}

void getSeconds(unsigned long *par)
{
    /* get the current number of seconds */
    *par = time( NULL );
    return;
}
```

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result:

```
Number of seconds :1294450468
```

The function, which can accept a pointer, can also accept an array as shown in the following example:

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* function declaration */
double getAverage(int *arr, int size);

int main ()
{
    /* an int array with 5 elements */
    int balance[5] = {1000, 2, 3, 17, 50};
    double avg;

    /* pass pointer to the array as an argument */
    avg = getAverage( balance, 5 );

    /* output the returned value */
    printf("Average value is: %f\n", avg );

    return 0;
}

double getAverage(int *arr, int size)
{
    int i, sum = 0;
    double avg;

    for (i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        sum += arr[i];
    }

    avg = (double)sum / size;

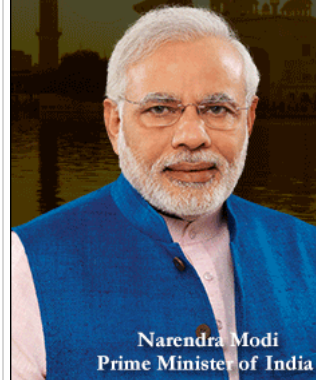
    return avg;
}
```

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When the above code is compiled together and executed, it produces the following result:

Average value is: 214.40000

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