

Learn Go with tests

Our tests will no longer compile because we are trying to pass in a `Counter` rather than a `*Counter`. To solve this I prefer to create a constructor which shows readers of your API that it would be better to not initialise the type yourself.

```
1 func NewCounter() *Counter {  
2     return &Counter{}  
3 }
```

Use this function in your tests when initialising `Counter`.

Wrapping up

We've covered a few things from the [sync package](#)

- `Mutex` allows us to add locks to our data
- `Waitgroup` is a means of waiting for goroutines to finish jobs

When to use locks over channels and goroutines?

We've previously covered [goroutines in the first concurrency chapter](#) which let us write safe concurrent code so why would you use locks? [The go wiki has a page dedicated to this topic; Mutex Or Channel](#)

A common Go newbie mistake is to over-use channels and goroutines just because it's possible, and/or because it's fun. Don't be afraid to use a `sync.Mutex` if that fits your problem best. Go is pragmatic in letting you use the tools that solve your problem best and not forcing you into one style of code.

Paraphrasing:

- Use channels when passing ownership of data
- Use mutexes for managing state