

# Options

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Options are a lot like lists, but instead of containing an arbitrary amount of elements, they contain either one element or `NONE`, and just like lists, options are built and accessed.

`t option` is a type for any type `t`

## Building an Option

`NONE` builds an option that contains 0 elements that has a type of `a option`

`SOME e` builds an option that contains 1 element you evaluate it by evaluating `e`. It has the type `t option` if `e` has type `t`

## Accessing an Option

We need to access our options

`isSome`: is a function that has type of `'a option -> bool` it returns `true` if it's a `SOME e` and false if it's a `NONE`. A lot like `null` for lists

`valOf` has a type `'a option -> 'a` takes an option and gets the `e` out from underneath the `SOME` it raises an `exception` if the argument is `NONE`

## Example of using an Option

```
fun better_max2 (xs : int list) =
  if null xs
  then NONE
  else
    let (* ok to assume xs nonempty b/c local *)
      fun max_nonempty (xs : int list) =
        if null (tl xs)
        then hd xs
        else
          let val tl_ans = max_nonempty(tl xs)
          in
            if hd xs > tl_ans
            then hd xs
            else tl_ans
          end
    in
      SOME (max_nonempty xs)
    end
```