

```
#include <stdio.h>
#define MAX 100
int main() {...}
```

Source Code
(.c file)
with #directives

Before compilation

C Preprocessor
Text-to-text transformation

Processed text

Preprocessed Code
(expanded text)
no # directives

To compilation

Compiler
Actual C compilation

Preprocessor Directives

#include
Inserts file contents

#define
Creates macros

#if/#ifdef/#ifndef
Conditional compilation

Include guards:
#ifndef HEADER_H
#define HEADER_H
...
#endif

```
/* stdio.h contents */
...
int main() {...}
/* MAX replaced */
```