

Summary Report
Art of Readable Code
Chapter 06

Making Comments Precise and Compact

- If you're going to write a comment at all, it might as well be precise—as specific and detailed as possible.
- On the other hand, comments take up extra space on the screen, and take extra time to read. So comments should also be compact.
- **Comments should have a high information-to-space ratio.**
- Keep Comments Compact
- Avoid Ambiguous Pronouns
 - The safest thing is to “fill in” pronouns if there’s any chance of confusion.
- **Polish Sloppy Sentences**
 - This sentence is simpler, smaller, and more direct.
- **Describe Function Behavior Precisely**
- **Use Input/Output Examples That Illustrate Corner Cases**
- **State the Intent of Your Code**
- **“Named Function Parameter” Comments**
- **Use Information-Dense Words**

Summary

- Avoid pronouns like “it” and “this” when they can refer to multiple things.
- Describe a function’s behavior with as much precision as is practical.
- Illustrate your comments with carefully chosen input/output examples.
- State the high-level intent of your code, rather than the obvious details.
- Use inline comments (e.g., `Function(* arg = */ ...)`) to explain mysterious function arguments.
- Keep your comments brief by using words that pack a lot of meaning.

