

# GeeksforGeeks

A computer science portal for geeks

[Courses](#)[Write an Article](#)

Write a C  
macro  
PRINT(x)  
which prints  
x

Variable  
length  
arguments  
for Macros

Multiline  
macros in C

CRASH()  
macro –  
interpretation

The  
OFFSETOF()  
macro

Branch  
prediction  
macros in  
GCC

A C  
Programming  
Language  
Puzzle

What's

difference  
between  
header files  
"stdio.h" and  
"stdlib.h" ?

How to print  
a variable  
name in C?

int (1 sign  
bit + 31 data  
bits)  
keyword in C

Program  
error signals

TCP Server-  
Client  
implementation  
in C

Why array  
index starts  
from zero ?

How to  
return  
multiple  
values from  
a function in  
C or C++?

Dynamic  
Memory  
Allocation in  
C using  
malloc(),  
calloc(),

free() and  
realloc()

Pre-  
increment  
and Post-  
increment in  
C/C++

Applications  
of Pointers  
in C/C++

Sum of array  
Elements  
without  
using loops  
and  
recursion

Comments  
in C/C++

"static  
const" vs  
"#define" vs  
"enum"

Why strcpy  
and strncpy  
are not safe  
to use?

How will you  
print  
numbers  
from 1 to  
100 without  
using loop? |  
Set-2

How to find  
Segmentation  
Error in C &  
C++ ? (Using  
GDB)

time()  
function in C

Loader in  
C/C++

tolower()  
function in C

Commonly  
Asked C  
Programming  
Interview  
Questions |  
Set 3

Passing  
Reference to  
a Pointer in  
C++

Communication  
between two  
process  
using  
signals in C

GDB (Step  
by Step  
Introduction)



## Diffference between #define and const in C?

**#define** is a **preprocessor directive**. Things defined by #define are replaced by the preprocessor before compilation begins.

**const** variables are actual variables like other normal variable.

The big advantage of `const` over `#define` is type checking. We can also have pointers to `const` variables, we can pass them around, typecast them and any other thing that can be done with a normal variable. One disadvantage that one could think of is extra space for variable which is immaterial due to optimizations done by compilers.

In general `const` is a better option if we have a choice. There are situations when `#define` cannot be replaced by `const`. For example, `#define` can take parameters (See [this](#) for example). `#define` can also be used to replace some text in a program with another text.

This article is contributed by **Abhay Rathi**. Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above

## Recommended Posts:

["static const" vs "#define" vs "enum"](#)

[Difference between `const int\*`, `const int \*` `const`, and `int const \*`](#)

[Difference between `const char \*p`, `char \* const p` and `const char \* const p`](#)

[typedef versus #define in C](#)

[Const Qualifier in C](#)

[C++ | const keyword | Question 2](#)

[How to modify a const variable in C?](#)

[C++ | const keyword | Question 1](#)

[C++ | const keyword | Question 5](#)

[C++ | const keyword | Question 5](#)

[C++ | const keyword | Question 3](#)

[Function overloading and const keyword](#)

[Why copy constructor argument should be const in C++?](#)

[Difference between Structure and Array in C](#)

Article Tags : C C-Macro & Preprocessor cpp-macros

Practice Tags : C



Be the First to upvote.

2.3

☐ To-do ☐ Done

Based on 10 vote(s)

Please write to us at [contribute@geeksforgeeks.org](mailto:contribute@geeksforgeeks.org) to report any issue with the above content.

Writing code in comment? Please use [ide.geeksforgeeks.org](https://ide.geeksforgeeks.org), generate link and share the link here.

Share this post!

GeeksforGeeks  
A computer science portal for geeks

710-B, Advant Navis Business Park,  
Sector-142, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201305  
[feedback@geeksforgeeks.org](mailto:feedback@geeksforgeeks.org)

#### COMPANY

About Us  
Careers  
Privacy Policy  
Contact Us

#### LEARN

Algorithms  
Data Structures  
Languages  
CS Subjects  
Video Tutorials

#### PRACTICE

Company-wise  
Topic-wise  
Contests  
Subjective Questions

#### CONTRIBUTE

Write an Article  
Write Interview  
Experience  
Internships  
Videos

@geeksforgeeks, Some rights reserved