Function Templates

To understand what a template is, it's handy to first understand why they're used. Consider how you would implement a function, $\max()$, that takes two arguments and returns the greater of the two. Such a function is general enough to work on any type that has a comparison operator; defined on it. Here's an implementation for a specific type, like int:

lstlisting[style=cxx] int max(int a, int b) return (a ; b ? a : b);