I think an explanation of class methods may be in order here. Serial.begin() is not just a function. begin() but a method of the instantiated class Serial. This is the first time it is introduced in our tutorials so it might need some explanation.

Since this is the first introduction to serial communication in chipKIT, it might be necessary to mention that there are several serial objects, ie Serial, Serial1, Serial2, and Serial3. (Serial is simply tied to USB serial interface). As well as that the protocol used for these is UART ( RS-232) as opposed to SPI, or I2C serial. You probally don’t need to go into any kinda of depth about that, just let the reader know that not all serial connections are the same.