

## 2.2.4 Tests and Loops

C++ provides a conventional set of statements for expressing selection and looping. For example, here is a simple function that prompts the user and returns a Boolean indicating the response:

```
bool accept()
{
    cout << "Do you want to proceed (y or n)?\n";    // write question
    char answer = 0;
    cin >> answer;                                   // read answer
    if (answer == 'y') return true;
    return false;
}
```

To match the << output operator ("put to"), the >> operator ("get from") is used for input; cin is the standard input stream. The type of the right-hand operand of >> determines what input is accepted, and its right-hand operand is the target of the input operation. The \n character at the end of the output string represents a newline (§2.2.1).

The example could be improved by taking an n (for "no") answer into account:

```
bool accept2()
{
    cout << "Do you want to proceed (y or n)?\n";    // write question
    char answer = 0;
    cin >> answer;                                   // read answer
}
```

```

switch (answer) {
case 'y':
    return true;
case 'n':
    return false;
default:
    cout << "I'll take that for a no.\n";
    return false;
}

```

A switch-statement tests a value against a set of constants. The case constants must be distinct, and if the value tested does not match any of them, the default is chosen. If no default is provided, no action is taken if the value doesn't match any case constant.

Few programs are written without loops. For example, we might like to give the user a few tries to produce acceptable input:

```

bool accept3()
{
    int tries = 1;
    while (tries < 4) {
        cout << "Do you want to proceed (y or n)?\n"; // write question
        char answer = 0;
        cin >> answer; // read answer

        switch (answer) {
        case 'y':
            return true;
        case 'n':
            return false;
        default:
            cout << "Sorry, I don't understand that.\n";
            ++tries; // increment
        }
    }
    cout << "I'll take that for a no.\n";
    return false;
}

```

The while-statement executes until its condition becomes false.