

SECOND EDITION

---

THE

---



---

PROGRAMMING  
LANGUAGE

---

BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN  
DENNIS M. RITCHIE

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERIES

# **The C Programming Language**

**Second Edition**

**Brian W. Kernighan/Dennis M. Ritchie**

## **From the Preface**

We have tried to retain the brevity of the first edition. C is not a big language, and it is not well served by a big book. We have improved the exposition of critical features, such as pointers, that are central to C programming. We have refined the original examples, and have added new examples in several chapters. For instance, the treatment of complicated declarations is augmented by programs that convert declarations into words and vice versa. As before, all examples have been tested directly from the text, which is in machine-readable form.

As we said in the preface to the first edition, C “wears well as one’s experience with it grows.” With a decade more experience, we still feel that way. We hope that this book will help you to learn C and use it well.

**Also available from Prentice Hall:  
SECOND EDITION**

---

**THE C ANSWER BOOK**  
Solutions to the Exercises in  
**The C Programming Language**, second edition  
by Brian W. Kernighan & Dennis M. Ritchie

---

**CLOVIS L. TONDO  
SCOTT E. GIMPEL**

**Prentice Hall P T R, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632**