

## Why are you using a space before %c in scanf(" %c", &ch) ?



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Your 2<sup>nd</sup> example in **course C** and chapter **I am data**, you have used a space before %c in `scanf` while accepting a char from the user. Why is it so? You have not used it for accepting int or float. The program is not working if we don't add space before char. Can you explain what is happening here?

### Answers



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Space before **%c** removes any white space (blanks, tabs, or newlines). It means **%c without space** will read white space like new line(\n), spaces(' ') or tabs(\t). By adding space before **%c**, we are skipping this and reading only the **char** given.

### Why it is not required with int or float?

Int or float only matches the numeric part. E.g.- if you give **123a** as integer input then it will take only **123** and will skip the non numeric part. You can check this by giving different inputs to int.

Also, **space** will not be required if taking the **char** is the first input statement. E.g.-

```
#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
    float a;
```

```

int b;
char ch;

//We are taking char input first. So, this will work without space
printf("\nEnter value of char\n");
scanf("%c", &ch);

printf("\nEnter value of float\n");
scanf("%f", &a);

printf("\nEnter value of int\n");
scanf("%d", &b);


printf("\nValue of float : %f", a);
printf("\nValue of int : %d", b);
printf("\nValue of char : %c", ch);
printf("\nValue of float(rounded) : %.2f\n", a);
}

```

So, the conclusion is : We require space before **%c** to skip the white space in buffer memory. E.g.- in **scanf("%d%c")**, we will hit ENTER or SPACE after giving integer value, so **%c (without space)** will match that white space (ENTER or SPACE) and not the char given after it (%d will take only numeric part and not the white space) . So, by giving **space before %c**, we are skipping that white space and taking the char only.

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