

## Are *buf*[0] and *buf*[1] separate variables?

Of course, the literal answer to this question is no. They are two different expressions that involves the single variable *buf*. The real question is, can we consider them to be separate variables in the context of the discussion in Section 7.9? The answer depends on whether reading or writing *buf*[*i*] affects the operation of reading or writing *buf*[*j*], for  $i \neq j$ . This in turn depends on how those operations are implemented. In the obvious way of implementing *buf* with an array, the two operations will be independent. However, one can envision implementations in which this isn't the case—for example, if *buf* were implemented as a sparse array.

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