Bradley Jones Peter Aitken



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Bradley L. Jones Peter Aitken Dean Miller

Sams Teach Yourself

C Programming

in **One Hour a Day**

Seventh Edition



Sams Teach Yourself C Programming in One Hour a Day, Seventh Edition

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Contents at a Glance

	Introduction	1
PART	I: Fundamentals of C	
1	Getting Started with C	5
2	The Components of a C Program	23
3	Storing Information: Variables and Constants	37
4	The Pieces of a C Program: Statements, Expressions, and Operators	57
5	Packaging Code in Functions	91
6	Basic Program Control	119
7	Fundamentals of Reading and Writing Information	145
PART	II: Putting C to Work	
8	Using Numeric Arrays	167
9	Understanding Pointers	187
1	Working with Characters and Strings	213
1	1 Implementing Structures, Unions, and TypeDefs	241
1	2 Understanding Variable Scope	279
1	3 Advanced Program Control	299
1	4 Working with the Screen, Printer, and Keyboard	325
PART	III: Advanced C	
1	5 Pointers to Pointers and Arrays of Pointers	361
1	6 Pointers to Functions and Linked Lists	385
1	7 Using Disk Files	417
1	8 Manipulating Strings	455
1	9 Getting More from Functions	487
2	Exploring the C Function Library	505
	Working with Memory	533
2	2 Advanced Compiler Use	559
PART	IV: Appendixes	
A	ASCII Chart	583
В	C/C++ Reserved Words	589
С	Common C Functions	593
D	Answers	599
	Index	645

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
PART I: Fundamentals of C	
LESSON 1: Getting Started with C	5
A Brief History of the C Language	6
Why Use C?	6
Preparing to Program	8
The Program Development Cycle	8
Creating the Source Code	9
Compiling the Source Code	9
Linking to Create an Executable File	10
Completing the Development Cycle	11
Your First C Program	13
Entering and Compiling hello.c	14
Summary	18
Q&A	18
Workshop	19
Quiz	19
Exercises	20
LESSON 2: The Components of a C Program	23
A Short C Program	24
The Program's Components	25
The main() Function (Lines 9 Through 23)	25
The #include and #define Directives (Lines 2 and 3)	25
The Variable Definition (Line 5)	26
The Function Prototype (Line 7)	26
Program Statements (Lines 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 28)	26
The Function Definition (Lines 26 Through 29)	27
Program Comments (Lines 1, 11, 16, and 25)	27
Using Braces (Lines 10, 23, 27, and 29)	29
Running the Program	29
A Note on Accuracy	29

A Review of the Parts of a Program	30
Summary	
Q&A	33
Workshop	33
Quiz	33
Exercises	34
LESSON 3: Storing Information: Variables and Constants	37
Understanding Your Computer's Memory	38
Storing Information with Variables	39
Variable Names	39
Numeric Variable Types	40
Variable Declarations	44
The typedef Keyword	45
Initializing Variables	45
Constants	47
Literal Constants	47
Symbolic Constants	48
Summary	53
Q&A	53
Workshop	54
Quiz	54
Exercises	55
LESSON 4: The Pieces of a C Program: Statements, Expressions,	
and Operators	57
Statements	58
The Impact of White Space on Statements	58
Creating a Null Statement	59
Working with Compound Statements	59
Understanding Expressions	60
Simple Expressions	60
Complex Expressions	60
Operators	61
The Assignment Operator	62
The Mathematical Operators	62
Operator Precedence and Parentheses	67

Order of Subexpression Evaluation	69
The Relational Operators	70
The if Statement	71
The else Clause	74
Evaluating Relational Expressions	77
The Precedence of Relational Operators	79
The Logical Operators	80
More on True/False Values	82
The Precedence of Operators	82
Compound Assignment Operators	84
The Conditional Operator	85
The Comma Operator	85
Operator Precedence Revisited	86
Summary	87
Q&A	88
Workshop	88
Quiz	89
Exercises	89
LESSON 5: Packaging Code in Functions	91
Understanding Functions	92
A Function Defined	92
A Function Illustrated	92
How a Function Works	95
Functions and Structured Programming	97
The Advantages of Structured Programming	97
Planning a Structured Program	97
The Top-Down Approach	99
Writing a Function	100
The Function Header	100
The Function Body	103
The Function Prototype	109
Passing Arguments to a Function	110
Calling Functions	110
Recursion	112
Where the Functions Belong	114

Working with Inline Functions	
Summary	
Q&A	116
Workshop	116
Quiz	116
Exercises	
LESSON 6: Basic Program Control	119
Arrays: The Basics	
Controlling Program Execution	121
The for Statement	121
Nesting for Statements	
The while Statement	
Nesting while Statements	
The dowhile Loop	
Nested Loops	141
Summary	
Q&A	
Workshop	
Quiz	
Exercises	
LESSON 7: Fundamentals of Reading and Writing Infor	mation 145
Displaying Information Onscreen	146
The printf() Function	
The printf() Format Strings	
Displaying Messages with puts()	
Inputting Numeric Data with scanf()	
Using Trigraph Sequences	
Summary	
Q&A	
Workshop	
Quiz	
Exercises	164

PART II: Putting C to Work

LESSON 8: Using Numeric Arrays	167
What Is an Array?	168
Using Single-Dimensional Arrays	169
Using Multidimensional Arrays	173
Naming and Declaring Arrays	174
Initializing Arrays	178
Initializing Multidimensional Arrays	179
Summary	182
Q&A	183
Workshop	184
Quiz	184
Exercises	
LESSON 9: Understanding Pointers	187
What Is a Pointer?	188
Your Computer's Memory	188
Creating a Pointer	188
Pointers and Simple Variables	189
Declaring Pointers	189
Initializing Pointers	190
Using Pointers	190
Pointers and Variable Types	193
Pointers and Arrays	194
The Array Name as a Pointer	194
Array Element Storage	195
Pointer Arithmetic	198
Pointer Cautions	202
Array Subscript Notation and Pointers	203
Passing Arrays to Functions	204
Summary	209
Q&A	210
Workshop	210
Quiz	210
Exercises	211

LESSON 10: Working with Characters and Strings	213
The char Data Type	214
Using Character Variables	215
Using Strings	218
Arrays of Characters	218
Initializing Character Arrays	219
Strings and Pointers	219
Strings Without Arrays	220
Allocating String Space at Compilation	220
The malloc() Function	221
Using the malloc() Function	222
Displaying Strings and Characters	226
The puts() Function	226
The printf() Function.	227
Reading Strings from the Keyboard	228
Inputting Strings Using the gets() Function	228
Inputting Strings Using the scanf() Function	232
Summary	235
Q&A	235
Workshop	237
Quiz	237
Exercises	238
LESSON 11: Implementing Structures, Unions, and TypeDefs	241
Working with Simple Structures	242
Defining and Declaring Structures	242
Accessing Members of a Structure	243
Using Structures That Are More Complex	246
Including Structures Within Other Structures	246
Structures That Contain Arrays	250
Arrays of Structures	252
Initializing Structures	256
Structures and Pointers	259
Including Pointers as Structure Members	259
Creating Pointers to Structures	261
Working with Pointers and Arrays of Structures	264
Passing Structures as Arguments to Functions	267

	Understanding Unions	208
	Defining, Declaring, and Initializing Unions	269
	Accessing Union Members	269
	Creating Synonyms for Structures with typedef	274
	Summary	275
	Q&A	275
	Workshop	276
	Quiz	276
	Exercises	277
LE	SSON 12: Understanding Variable Scope	279
	What Is Scope?	280
	A Demonstration of Scope	280
	The Importance of Scope	282
	Creating External Variables	282
	External Variable Scope	283
	When to Use External Variables	283
	The extern Keyword	283
	Creating Local Variables	285
	Static Versus Automatic Variables	285
	The Scope of Function Parameters	288
	External Static Variables	289
	Register Variables	289
	Local Variables and the main() Function	290
	Which Storage Class Should You Use?	291
	Local Variables and Blocks	
	Summary	
	Q&A	
	Workshop	
	Quiz	
	Exercises	295
LE	SSON 13: Advanced Program Control	299
	Ending Loops Early	300
	The break Statement	300
	The continue Statement	302

The goto Statement	304
Infinite Loops	307
The switch Statement	311
Exiting the Program	320
The exit() Function	320
Summary	321
Q&A	321
Workshop	322
Quiz	322
Exercises	322
IFECON 44. Working with the Careen Drinter and Keyboard	325
LESSON 14: Working with the Screen, Printer, and Keyboard Streams and C	
What Exactly Is Program Input/Output?	
What Is a Stream?	
Text Versus Binary Streams	
Predefined Streams	
Using C's Stream Functions	
An Example	
Accepting Keyboard Input	
Character Input	
Working with Formatted Input	
Controlling Output to the Screen	
Character Output with putchar(), putc(), and fputc()	
Using puts() and fputs() for String Output	
Using printf() and fprintf() for Formatted Output	
When to Use fprintf()	
Using stderr	
Summary	
Q&A	
Workshop	
Quiz	
Evercises	360

PART III: Advanced C

LESSON 15: Pointers to Pointers and Arrays of Pointers	361
Declaring Pointers to Pointers	362
Pointers and Multidimensional Arrays	363
Working with Arrays of Pointers	372
Strings and Pointers: A Review	372
Declaring an Array of Pointers to Type char	373
Pulling Things Together with an Example	375
Summary	381
Q&A	382
Workshop	382
Quiz	382
Exercises	383
LESSON 16: Pointers to Functions and Linked Lists	385
Working with Pointers to Functions	386
Declaring a Pointer to a Function	386
Initializing and Using a Pointer to a Function	387
Understanding Linked Lists	396
Basics of Linked Lists	396
Working with Linked Lists	398
A Simple Linked List Demonstration	403
Implementing a Linked List	406
Summary	415
Q&A	415
Workshop	415
Quiz	415
Exercises	416
LESSON 17: Using Disk Files	417
Relating Streams to Disk Files	418
Understanding the Types of Disk Files	418
Using Filenames	418
Opening a File	419

Writing and Reading File Data	423
Formatted File Input and Output	424
Character Input and Output	428
Direct File Input and Output	431
File Buffering: Closing and Flushing Files	435
Understanding Sequential Versus Random File Access	436
The ftell() and rewind() Functions	437
The fseek() Function	440
Detecting the End of a File	443
File Management Functions	445
Deleting a File	445
Renaming a File	446
Copying a File	447
Using Temporary Files	450
Summary	452
Q&A	452
Workshop	453
Quiz	453
Exercises	454
LESSON 18: Manipulating Strings	455
Determining String Length	
Copying Strings	
The strcpy() Function	
The strapy() Function	
Concatenating Strings	
Using the streat() Function	
Using the strncat() Function	
Comparing Strings	
Comparing Two Entire Strings	
Comparing Partial Strings	
Searching Strings	
The strchr() Function	
The strrchr() Function	
The strcspn() Function	470
The strcspn() Function The strspn() Function	

	The strpbrk() Function	473
	The strstr() Function	473
	String-to-Number Conversions	474
	Converting Strings to Integers	475
	Converting Strings to Longs	475
	Converting Strings to Long Longs	476
	Converting Strings to Floating-Point Numeric Values	476
	Character-Test Functions	477
	ANSI Support for Uppercase and Lowercase	481
	Summary	483
	Q&A	483
	Workshop	484
	Quiz	484
	Exercises	484
LES	SSON 19: Getting More from Functions	487
	Passing Pointers to Functions	488
	Type void Pointers	492
	Using Functions That Have a Variable Number of Arguments	496
	Functions That Return a Pointer	499
	Summary	501
	Q&A	502
	Workshop	502
	Quiz	502
	Exercises	503
LES	SSON 20: Exploring the C Function Library	505
	Mathematical Functions	506
	Trigonometric Functions	506
	Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	506
	Hyperbolic Functions	507
	Other Mathematical Functions	507
	A Demonstration of the Math Functions	508
	Dealing with Time	509
	Representing Time	509
	The Time Functions	510
	Using the Time Functions	513

Error-Handling	516
The assert() Macro	516
The errno.h Header File	518
The perror() Function	519
Searching and Sorting	521
Searching with bsearch()	521
Sorting with qsort()	523
Searching and Sorting: Two Demonstrations	523
Summary	529
Q&A	529
Workshop	530
Quiz	530
Exercises	531
LESSON 21: Working with Memory	533
Type Conversions	534
Automatic Type Conversions	534
Explicit Conversions Using Typecasts	536
Allocating Memory Storage Space	538
Allocating Memory with the malloc() Function	539
Allocating Memory with the calloc() Function	540
Allocating More Memory with the realloc() Function	541
Releasing Memory with the free() Function	543
Manipulating Memory Blocks	545
Initializing Memory with the memset () Function	545
Copying Memory with the memcpy() Function	546
Moving Memory with the memmove() Function	546
Working with Bits	548
The Shift Operators	548
The Bitwise Logical Operators	550
The Complement Operator	552
Bit Fields in Structures	552
Summary	554
Q&A	554
Workshop	556
Quiz	556
Exercises	557

LESSON 22: Advanced Compiler Use	559
Programming with Multiple Source-Code Files	560
Advantages of Modular Programming	560
Modular Programming Techniques	560
Module Components	564
External Variables and Modular Programming	565
The C Preprocessor	567
The #define Preprocessor Directive	567
Using the #include Directive	572
Using #if, #elif, #else, and #endif	573
Using #if#endif to Help Debug	574
Avoiding Multiple Inclusions of Header Files	575
The #undef Directive	576
Predefined Macros	576
Using Command-Line Arguments	577
Summary	580
Q&A	580
Workshop	581
Quiz	581
Exercises	582
PART 4: Appendixes	
APPENDIX A: ASCII Chart	583
APPENDIX B: C/C++ Reserved Words	589
APPENDIX C: Common C Functions	593
APPENDIX D: Answers	599
Index	645

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-Dean Miller

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—Peter Aitken

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-Bradley L. Jones

We Want to Hear from You!

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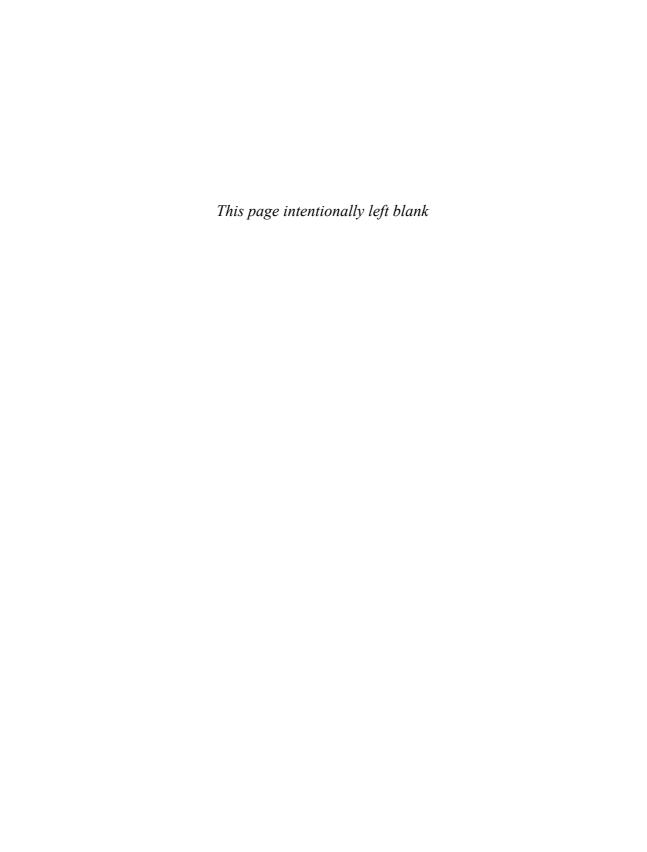
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Introduction

As you can guess from the title, this book is set up so that you can teach yourself the C programming language in 22 one-hour lessons. Despite stiff competition from languages such as C++, Java, and C#, C remains the language of choice for people who are just learning programming. For reasons detailed in Lesson 1, "Getting Started with C," you can't go wrong in selecting C as your programming language.

You've made a wise decision selecting this book as your means of learning C. Although there are many books on C, this book presents C in the most logical and easy-to-learn sequence. The fact that the six previous editions have been on best-seller lists indicates that readers agree! This book is designed for you to work through the lessons in order on a daily basis. You don't need any previous programming experience; although experience with another language, such as BASIC, might help you learn faster. Also no assumptions are made about your computer or compiler; this book concentrates on teaching the C language, regardless of whether you use a PC, a Mac, or a UNIX system.

This Book's Special Features

This book contains some special features to aid you on your path to C enlightenment. Syntax boxes show you how to use specific C concepts. Each box provides concrete examples and a full explanation of the C command or concept. To get a feel for the style of the syntax boxes, look at the following example. (Don't try to understand the material; you haven't even reached Lesson 1!)

Syntax

```
#include <stdio.h>
printf( format-string[,arguments,...]);
```

printf() is a function that accepts a series of arguments, each applying to a conversion specifier in the given format string. It prints the formatted information to the standard output device, usually the display screen. When using printf(), you need to include the standard input/output header file, stdio.h.

The format-string is required; however, arguments are optional. For each argument, there must be a conversion specifier. The format string can also contain escape sequences. The following are examples of calls to printf() and their output.

Example 1

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main( void )
{
    printf( "This is an example of something printed!");
}
```

Example 1 Output

This is an example of something printed!

Example 2

```
printf( "This prints a character, %c\na number, %d\na floating point, %f", 'z', 123, 456.789 );
```

Example 2 Output

```
This prints a character, z a number, 123 a floating point, 456.789
```

Another feature of this book is DO/DON'T boxes, which give you pointers on what to do and what not to do.

DO read the rest of this section. It explains the Workshop sections that appear at the end of each lesson. DON'T skip any of the quiz questions or exercises. If you can finish the lesson's Workshop, you're ready to move on to new material.

You'll encounter Tip, Note, and Caution boxes as well. Tips provide useful shortcuts and techniques for working with C. Notes provide special details that enhance the explanations of C concepts. Cautions help you avoid potential problems.

Numerous sample programs illustrate C's features and concepts so that you can apply them in your own programs. Each program's discussion is divided into three components: the program itself, the input required and the output generated by it, and a line-by-line analysis of how the program works. These components are indicated by special icons.

Each lesson ends with a Q&A section containing answers to common questions relating to that lesson's material. There is also a Workshop at the end of each lesson. It contains quiz questions and exercises. The quiz tests your knowledge of the concepts presented in that lesson. If you want to check your answers, or if you're stumped, the answers are provided in Appendix D.

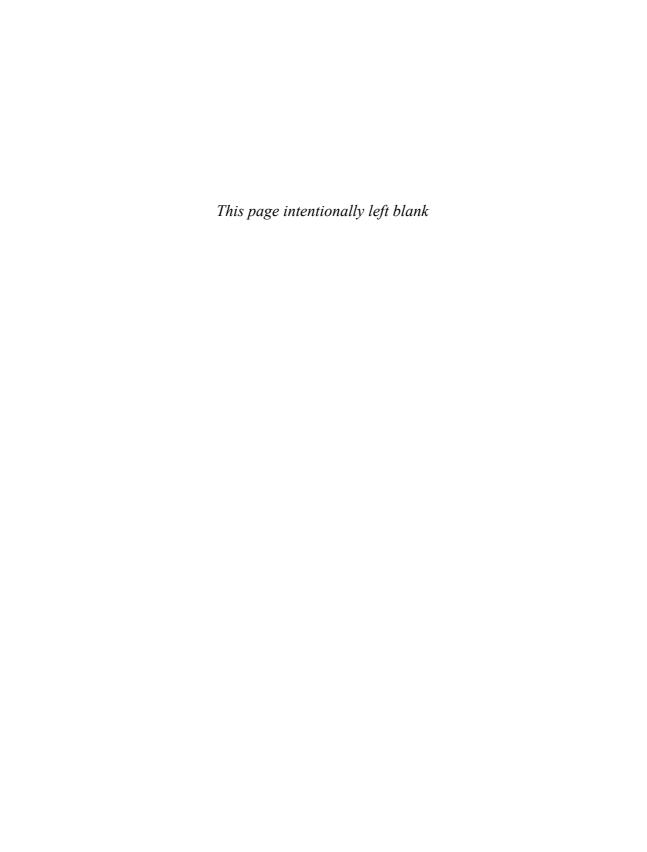
You won't learn C by just reading this book, however. If you want to be a programmer, you must write programs. Following each set of quiz questions is a set of exercises. You need to attempt each exercise. Writing C code is the best way to learn C.

The BUG BUSTER exercises are most beneficial. A bug is a program error in C. BUG BUSTER exercises are code listings that contain common problems (bugs). It's your job to locate and fix these errors. If you have trouble busting the bugs, these answers also are given in Appendix D.

As you progress through this book, some of the exercise answers tend to get long. Other exercises have a multitude of answers. As a result, later lessons don't always provide answers for all the exercises.

Conventions Used in This Book

This book uses different typefaces to help you differentiate between C code and regular English, and also to help you identify important concepts. Actual C code appears in a special monospace font. In the examples of a program's input and output, what the user types appears in bold monospace. Placeholders—terms that represent what you actually type within the code—appear in *italic monospace*. New or important terms appear in *italic*.



LESSON 2

The Components of a C Program

Every C program consists of several components combined in a specific way. Most of this book is devoted to explaining these various program components and how you use them. To help illustrate the overall picture, you should begin by reviewing a complete (though small) C program with all its components identified. In this lesson you learn:

- The components of a short C program
- The purpose of each program component
- How to compile and run a sample program

A Short C Program

Listing 2.1 presents the source code for bigyear.c. This is a simple program. All it does is accept a year of birth entered from the keyboard and calculate what year a person turns a specific age. At this stage, don't worry about understanding the details of how the program works. The point is for you to gain some familiarity with the parts of a C program so that you can better understand the listings presented later in this book.

Before looking at the sample program, you need to know what a function is because functions are central to C programming. A *function* is an independent section of program code that performs a certain task and has been assigned a name. By referencing a function's name, your program can execute the code in the function. The program also can send information, called *arguments*, to the function, and the function can return information to the main part of the program. The two types of C functions are *library functions*, which are a part of the C compiler package, and *user-defined functions*, which you, the programmer, create. You learn about both types of functions in this book.

Note that, as with all the listings in this book, the line numbers in Listing 2.1 are not part of the program. They are included only for identification purposes, so don't type them.

Input ▼

Listing 2.1 bigyear.c - A Program Calculates What Year a Person Turns a Specific Age

```
1: /* Program to calculate what year someone will turn a specific age */
  #include <stdio.h>
3: #define TARGET AGE 88
4:
5:
  int year1, year2;
7: int calcYear(int year1);
8 .
9: int main(void)
10: {
11:
         // Ask the user for the birth year
12:
         printf("What year was the subject born? ");
13:
         printf("Enter as a 4-digit year (YYYY): ");
         scanf(" %d", &year1);
14:
15.
16:
         // Calculate the future year and display it
        year2 = calcYear(year1);
17:
18:
19:
         printf("Someone born in %d will be %d in %d.",
20:
                  year1, TARGET AGE, year2);
21 .
22:
         return 0;
23: }
```

```
24:
25: /* The function to get the future year */
26: int calcYear(int year1)
27: {
28:     return(year1+TARGET_AGE);
29: }
```

Output ▼

```
What year was the subject born? 1963
Someone born in 1963 will be 88 in 2051.
```

The Program's Components

The following sections describe the various components of the preceding sample program. Line numbers are included so that you can easily identify the program parts discussed.

The main() Function (Lines 9 Through 23)

The only component required in every executable C program is the main() function. In its simplest form, the main() function consists of the name main followed by a pair of parentheses containing the word void ((void)) and a pair of braces ({}). You can leave the word void out and the program still works with most compilers. The ANSI Standard states that you should include the word void so that you know there is nothing sent to the main function.

Within the braces are statements that make up the main body of the program. Under normal circumstances, program execution starts at the first statement in main() and terminates at the last statement in main(). Per the ANSI Standard, the only statement that you need to include in this example is the return statement on line 22.

The #include and #define Directives (Lines 2 and 3)

The #include directive instructs the C compiler to add the contents of an include file into your program during compilation. An *include file* is a separate disk file that contains information that can be used by your program or the compiler. Several of these files (sometimes called *header files*) are supplied with your compiler. You rarely need to modify the information in these files; that's why they're kept separate from your source code. Include files should all have an .h extension (for example, stdio.h).

You use the #include directive to instruct the compiler to add a specific include file to your program during compilation. In Listing 2.1, the #include directive is interpreted to mean "Add the contents of the file stdio.h." You will almost always include one or more

include files in your C programs. Lesson 22, "Advanced Compiler Use" presents more information about include files.

The #define directive instructs the C compiler to replace a specific term with its assigned value throughout your program. By setting a variable at the top of your program and then using the term throughout the code, you can more easily change a term if needed by changing the single #define line as opposed to every place throughout the code. For example, if you wrote a payroll program that used a specific deduction for health insurance and the insurance rate changed, tweaking a variable created with #define named HEALTH_INSURANCE at the top of your program (or in a header file) would be so much easier than searching through lines and lines of code looking for every instance that had the information. Lesson 3, "Storing Information: Variables and Constants" covers the #define directive.

The Variable Definition (Line 5)

A *variable* is a name assigned to a location in memory used to store information. Your program uses variables to store various kinds of information during program execution. In C, a variable must be defined before it can be used. A variable definition informs the compiler of the variable's name and the type of information the variable is to hold. In the sample program, the definition on line 4, int year1, year2;, defines two variables—named year1 and year2—that each hold an integer value. Lesson 3 presents more information about variables and variable definitions.

The Function Prototype (Line 7)

A *function prototype* provides the C compiler with the name and arguments of the functions contained in the program. It appears before the function is used. A function prototype is distinct from a *function definition*, which contains the actual statements that make up the function. (Function definitions are discussed in more detail in "The Function Definition" section.)

Program Statements (Lines 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 28)

The real work of a C program is done by its statements. C statements display information onscreen, read keyboard input, perform mathematical operations, call functions, read disk files, and all the other operations that a program needs to perform. Most of this book is devoted to teaching you the various C statements. For now, remember that in your source code, C statements are generally written one per line and always end with a semicolon. The statements in bigyear.c are explained briefly in the following sections.

The printf() Statement

The printf() statement (lines 12, 13, 19, and 20) is a library function that displays information onscreen. The printf() statement can display a simple text message (as in lines 12 and 13) or a message mixed with the value of one or more program variables (as in lines 19-20).

The scanf() Statement

The scanf() statement (line 14) is another library function. It reads data from the keyboard and assigns that data to one or more program variables.

The program statement on line 17 calls the function named <code>calcYear()</code>. In other words, it executes the program statements contained in the function <code>calcYear()</code>. It also sends the argument <code>year1</code> to the function. After the statements in <code>calcYear()</code> are completed, <code>calcYear()</code> returns a value to the program. This value is stored in the variable named <code>year2</code>.

The return Statement

Lines 22 and 28 contain return statements. The return statement on line 28 is part of the function calcyear(). It calculates the year a person would be a specific age by adding the #define constant TARGET_AGE to the variable year1 and returns the result to the program that called calcyear(). The return statement on line 22 returns a value of 0 to the operating system just before the program ends.

The Function Definition (Lines 26 Through 29)

When defining functions before presenting the program bigyear.c, two types of functions—library functions and user-defined functions—were mentioned. The printf() and scanf() statements are examples of the first category, and the function named calcyear(), on lines 26 through 29, is a user-defined function. As the name implies, user-defined functions are written by the programmer during program development. This function adds the value of a created constant to a year and returns the answer (a different year) to the program that called it. In Lesson 5, "Packaging Code in Functions," you learn that the proper use of functions is an important part of good C programming practice.

Note that in a real C program, you probably wouldn't use a function for a task as simple as adding two numbers. It has been done here for demonstration purposes only.

Program Comments (Lines 1, 11, 16, and 25)

Any part of your program that starts with /* and ends with */ or any single line that begins with // is called a *comment*. The compiler ignores all comments, so they have absolutely no effect on how a program works. You can put anything you want

into a comment, and it won't modify the way your program operates. The first type of comment can span part of a line, an entire line, or multiple lines. Here are three examples:

```
/* A single-line comment */
int a,b,c; /* A partial-line comment */
/* a comment
spanning
multiple lines */
```

You should not use nested comments. A *nested* comment is a comment that has been put into another comment. Most compilers will not accept the following:

```
/*
/* Nested comment */
*/
```

Some compilers do allow nested comments. Although this feature might be tempting to use, you should avoid doing so. Because one of the benefits of C is portability, using a feature such as nested comments might limit the portability of your code. Nested comments also might lead to hard-to-find problems.

The second style of comment, the ones beginning with two consecutive forward slashes (//), are only for single-line comments. The two forward slashes tell the compiler to ignore everything that follows to the end of the line.

```
// This entire line is a comment int x_i // Comment starts with slashes
```

Many beginning programmers view program comments as unnecessary and a waste of time. This is a mistake! The operation of your program might be quite clear when you write the code; however, as your programs become larger and more complex, or when you need to modify a program you wrote 6 months ago, comments are invaluable. Now is the time to develop the habit of using comments liberally to document all your programming structures and operations. You can use either style of comments you prefer. Both are used throughout the programs in the book.

D₀

DO add abundant comments to your program's source code, especially near statements or functions that could be unclear to you or to someone who might have to modify it later.

DO learn to develop a style that will be helpful. A style that's too lean or cryptic doesn't help. A style that is verbose may cause you to spend more time commenting than programming.

DON'T

DON'T add unnecessary comments to statements that are already clear. For example, entering

/* The following prints Hello
World! on the screen */
printf("Hello World!);

might be going a little too far, at least when you're completely comfortable with the printf() function and how it works.

Using Braces (Lines 10, 23, 27, and 29)

You use braces {} to enclose the program lines that make up every C function—including the main() function. A group of one or more statements enclosed within braces is called a *block*. As you see in later lessons, C has many uses for blocks.

Running the Program

Take the time to enter, compile, and run bigyear.c. It provides additional practice in using your editor and compiler. Recall these steps from Lesson 1, "Getting Started with C":

- **1.** Make your programming directory current.
- 2. Start your editor.
- **3.** Enter the source code for bigyear.c exactly as shown in Listing 2.1, but be sure to omit the line numbers and colons.
- **4.** Save the program file.
- **5.** Compile and link the program by entering the appropriate command(s) for your compiler. If no error messages display, you can run the program by clicking the appropriate button in your C environment.
- **6.** If any error messages display, return to step 2 and correct the errors.

A Note on Accuracy

A computer is fast and accurate, but it also is completely literal. It doesn't know enough to correct your simplest mistake; it takes everything you enter exactly as you entered it, not as you meant it!

This goes for your C source code as well. A simple typographical error in your program can cause the C compiler to choke, gag, and collapse. Fortunately, although the compiler isn't smart enough to correct your errors (and you'll make errors—everyone does!), it *is* smart enough to recognize them as errors and report them to you. (You saw in Lesson 1 how the compiler reports error messages and how you interpret them.)

A Review of the Parts of a Program

Now that all the parts of a program have been described, you can look at any program and find some similarities. Look at Listing 2.2 and see whether you can identify the different parts.

Input ▼

Listing 2.2 list_it.c - A Program to List a Code Listing with Added Line Numbers

```
1: /* list it.c This program displays a listing with line numbers! */
 2: #include <stdio.h>
 3: #include <stdlib.h>
 4: #define BUFF SIZE 256
 5: void display usage (void);
 6: int line;
 8: int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
 9: {
10:
      char buffer[BUFF_SIZE];
     FILE *fp;
11:
12:
      if( argc < 2 )
13:
14:
          display usage();
15:
          return (1);
16:
17:
18:
       if (( fp = fopen( argv[1], "r" )) == NULL )
19:
20:
21:
            fprintf( stderr, "Error opening file, %s!", argv[1] );
22:
            return(1);
23:
24:
25:
      line = (1);
26:
27:
       while (fgets (buffer, BUFF SIZE, fp ) != NULL )
          fprintf( stdout, "%4d:\t%s", line++, buffer );
28:
29:
       fclose(fp);
       return 0;
31:
32: }
```

Output ▼

```
C:\>list_it list_it.c
      /* list_it.c - This program displays a listing with line numbers! */
      #include <stdio.h>
      #include <stdlib.h>
 3:
 4:
      #define BUFF SIZE 256
      void display usage(void);
 6:
      int line;
 7:
 8:
      int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
 9:
10:
          char buffer[BUFF_SIZE];
          FILE *fp;
11:
12:
13:
           if( argc < 2 )
14:
15:
                display usage();
16:
                return (1);
17:
18:
19:
           if (( fp = fopen( argv[1], "r" )) == NULL )
20:
                fprintf( stderr, "Error opening file, %s!", argv[1] );
21:
22:
                return(1);
23:
24:
25:
           line = 1;
26:
27:
           while( fgets( buffer, BUFF SIZE, fp ) != NULL )
              fprintf( stdout, "%4d:\t%s", line++, buffer );
28:
29:
30:
           fclose(fp);
31:
           return (0);
32:
33:
34:
    void display_usage(void)
35:
           fprintf(stderr, "\nProper Usage is: " );
36:
37:
           fprintf(stderr, "\n\nlist_it filename.ext\n" );
38:
```

Analysis ▼

The list_it.c program in Listing 2.2 displays C program listings that you have saved. These listings display on the screen with line numbers added.

Looking at this listing, you can summarize where the different parts are. The required <code>main()</code> function is in lines 8 through 32. Lines 2 and 3 have <code>#include</code> directives. Lines 6, 10, and 11 have variable definitions. Line 4 defines a constant BUFF_SIZE as 256, the stand size for buffers. The value to doing this is that if the buffer size changes, you only need to adjust this one line and all lines using this constant will automatically update. If you hardcode a number like 256, you'd have to search all your lines of code to make sure you caught all mentions.

A function prototype, void display_usage(void), is in line 5. This program has many statements (lines 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 36, and 37). A function definition for display_usage() fills lines 34 through 38. Braces enclose blocks throughout the program. Finally, only line 1 has a comment. In most programs, you should probably include more than one comment line.

list_it.c calls many functions. It calls only one user-defined function, display_usage(). The library functions that it uses are fopen() in line 19; fprintf() in lines 21, 28, 36, and 37; fgets() in line 27; and fclose() in line 30. These library functions are covered in more detail throughout this book.

Summary

This lesson was short, but it's important because it introduced you to the major components of a C program. You learned that the single required part of every C program is the main() function. You also learned that a program's real work is done by program statements that instruct the computer to perform your desired actions. You were also introduced to variables and variable definitions, and you learned how to use comments in your source code.

In addition to the main() function, a C program can use two types of subsidiary functions: library functions, supplied as part of the compiler package, and user-defined functions, created by the programmer. The next few lessons go into much more detail on many of the parts of a C program that you saw in this lesson.

Q&A

Q What effect do comments have on a program?

A Comments are for programmers. When the compiler converts the source code to object code, it throws the comments and the white space away. This means that they have no effect on the executable program. A program with a lot of comments executes just as fast as a program with few comments. Comments do make your source file bigger, but this is usually of little concern. To summarize, you should use comments and white space to make your source code as easy to understand and maintain as possible.

Q What is the difference between a statement and a block?

A A block is a group of statements enclosed in braces ({}). A block can be used in most places that a statement can be used.

Q How can I find out what library functions are available?

A Many compilers come with online documentation dedicated specifically to documenting the library functions. They are usually in alphabetical order. Appendix C, "Common C Functions," lists many of the available functions. After you begin to understand more of C, it would be a good idea to read that appendix so that you don't rewrite a library function. (There's no use reinventing the wheel!)

Workshop

The Workshop provides quiz questions to help you solidify your understanding of the material covered and exercises to provide you with experience in using what you've learned.

Quiz

- **1.** What is the term for a group of one or more C statements enclosed in braces?
- **2.** What is the one component that must be present in every C program?
- 3. How do you add program comments, and why are they used?
- **4.** What is a function?
- **5.** C offers two types of functions. What are they, and how are they different?
- 6. What is the #include directive used for?
- 7. Can comments be nested?
- **8.** Can comments be longer than one line?
- **9.** What is another name for an include file?
- **10**. What is an include file?

Exercises

- **1.** Write the smallest program possible.
- **2.** Consider the following program:

```
1: /* ex02-02.c */
2: #include <stdio.h>
4: void display line (void);
6: int main(void)
7: {
8:
       display line();
      printf("\n Teach Yourself C In One Hour a Day!\n");
9:
10:
      display_line();
11:
12:
       return 0;
13: }
14:
15: /* print asterisk line */
16: void display_line(void)
17: {
18:
       int counter;
19:
20:
      for( counter = 0; counter < 30; counter++ )</pre>
           printf("*");
21:
22: }
23: /* end of program */
```

- a. What line(s) contain statements?
- b. What line(s) contain variable definitions?
- c. What line(s) contain function prototypes?
- d. What line(s) contain function definitions?
- e. What line(s) contain comments?
- 3. Write an example of a comment.
- **4.** What does the following program do? (Enter, compile, and run it.)

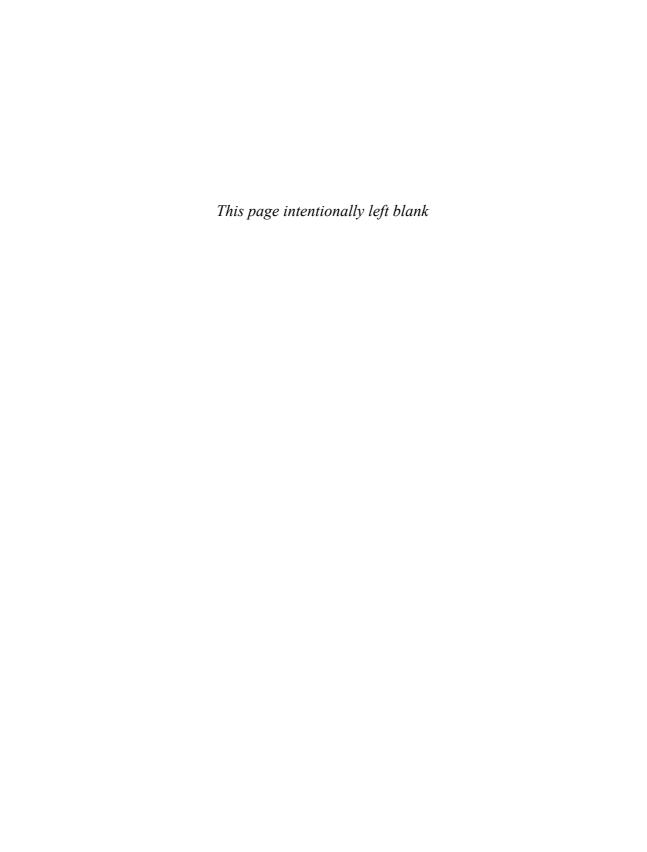
```
1: /* ex02-04.c */
2: #include <stdio.h>
3:
4: int main(void)
5: {
6: int ctr;
7:
8: for( ctr = 65; ctr < 91; ctr++ )
9: printf("%c", ctr );
10:</pre>
```

2

```
11:    printf("\n");
11:    return 0;
12: }
13: /* end of program */
```

5. What does the following program do? (Enter, compile, and run it.)

```
1: /* ex02-05.c */
2: #include <stdio.h>
3: #include <string.h>
4: int main(void)
5: {
       char buffer[256];
6:
7:
       printf( "Enter your name and press <Enter>:\n");
9:
       fgets( buffer );
10:
11:
        printf( "\nYour name has %d characters and spaces!",
12
                         strlen( buffer ));
13:
14:
       return 0;
15: }
```



Index

179

[] (brackets) Symbols arrays, 87, 169 & (ampersands) multidimensional array, pointers, 363 address operator, 156, 362 precedence, 368 AND operator, 550-551 > (greater than operator), 70 initializing pointers, 190 >= (greater than or equal to && (AND operator), 81 operator), 70 * (asterisks) >> (shift operator), 548-550 indirection operator. < (less than operator), 70 189-191, 259, 262, 362 <= (less than or equal to functions returning operator), 70 pointers, 499 << (shift operator), 548-550 passing by reference, 492 ^ (carets), XOR operator, 550-551 precedence, 386 , (comma operator), 126, 130 multiplication operator, 48, 65 ... (ellipses) pointers, 190 function prototypes, 424 ** (double indirection functions with variable operator), 362, 371 numbers of arguments, 496 \ (backslashes) - (em dashes), subtraction escape sequences, operator, 65 146-147 - (unary operator), 62-65 paths, 419 -> (indirect membership \0 (null character), 218, 456 operator), 263, 268 \n (newline character), 146-= (equals symbols), 147 assignment operator, 45, 62 { } (braces), 29 == (equals operator), 70 compound statements, 59 ! (exclamation point), NOT functions, 94-96, 103 operator, 81 initializing != not equal to operator, 70 multidimensional arrays,

573

/ (forward slashes)	#endif directive (preprocessor),	addition operator (+), 65
division operator, 65	573	address operator (&), 156,
paths, 419	#if directive (preprocessor),	362
() (parentheses), 94	573	addresses
functions	#if#endif directive (preprocessor), 573-575	array elements, 195-198
function operator, 87	#include directive	memory, 188
passing arguments,	(preprocessor), 25, 572	RAM, 38
110 operator precedence, 68	#undef directive (preprocessor), 576	addressing pointers to functions, 386
pointer declaration, 368 % (percent symbols)	## (concatenation operator), 570	add to list() function, linked lists, 412
%d specifier, 151	"" (double quotation marks),	agechecker.c, 73-74
%f specifier, 152	format strings, 146	agechecker2.c, 75-76
%s specifier, printf()	: (semicolons), 130	allocating memory
function, 227	function headers, 101	for strings, 221
%u specifier, 151	function prototypes,	at compilation, 220
conversion specifiers, 147	writing, 109	malloc() function,
modulus operator, 65	~ (tildes), complement operator, 552	222-226
. (periods), dot operator,	(underlines)	storage space
243-244	DATE macro, 576	calloc() function, 540-541
(pipes), OR operator, 550-551	FILE macro, 576	dynamic memory
(OR operator), 81	LINE macro, 576	allocation, 538
+ (plus symbols), addition operator, 65	TIME macro, 576	freeing via free() function, 543-545
++ unary operator, 62, 65,		malloc() function, 539
264 # (pound symbols), stringizing	A	realloc() function, 541-543
operator, 569-571	abs() function, 507	static memory
#define directive	accessibility variables,	allocation, 538
(preprocessor), 26, 574	280-281	ampersands (&)
constants, 49	accuracy	&& (AND operator), 81
declaring arrays, 174	source code, 30	address operator, 156, 362
function macros, 568-572	variables. See precision variables	AND operator, 550-551
macros versus functions, 571-572	acos() function, 506	initializing pointers, 190 ANSI
substitution macros, 567-	adding	C Standard, 6, 10
568, 572	elements to linked lists	C11 Standard, 6
symbolic character constants, 215	beginning of lists, 398-399	compatibility, functions and, 311
#define statements, 178	empty lists, 399	compliance, functions and,
#elif directive (preprocessor),	end of lists, 400-401	332-334
573	existing lists, 400	
#else directive (preprocessor),	middle of lists, 401-402	

links to linked lists, 398

strings	src	passing to functions,
comparing, 466	memcpy() function, 546	369-371
converting uppercase/	memmove() function,	pointers, 363-368, 371
lowercase characters,	546	printing elements, 368
481-483	structures, passing as	subscripts, 173
strings, comparing, 466	arguments to functions, 267-268	naming, 174-178
approximate range (variables), 42	variables, passing	of pointers, 372, 380
arguments, 24. See also	arguments as, 488	of structures, 255
variables	void pointers, 492	passing
base, 523	arithmetic expressions,	by reference, 489
buf, 431-432	typecasts and, 536-537	to functions, 204-209
cmp, 521	arithmetic operation, pointers,	pointers
command-line, 577-580	202	arithmetic operations,
conversion specifiers, 154	arrays	202
dest	array elements, 168	array element storage, 195-198
memcopy() function,	arrays of pointers	array names as,
546	allocating memory, 372	194-195
memmove() function,	char type, 372-375	comparisons, 201
546	declaring, 373	decrementing, 199-201
expression, 516	example of, 375-381, 386	differencing, 201
filename, 420	initializing, 374	incrementing, 198-199
fp, 431, 435-437, 443	passing to functions,	random arrays, 182
functions, 95	374-375	single-dimensional,
functions with variable numbers of	sorting, 376	169-173
arguments, 496-498	sorting keyboard input,	structures
macros, 568	377-379	containing arrays,
passing to, 110	strings, 372	250-252
writing, 100-103	buf, 543	of arrays, 252-258, 264-266
in functions, 94	characters, 218	subscripts, 120, 169, 203
key, 521	initializing, 219	two-dimensional, 173-176,
mode, fopen() function,	pointers to, 219-220	364
420	declaring, 169, 174-178	variables, 168
msg, 519	defining, 120 , 168	ASCII
num, 521	element addresses,	concatenating strings, 462
passing to parameters,	displaying, 196	source code files, 9
102	elements, assigning values to, 553	ASCII character set, 214-217
printf() function, 154	for statements, 120	ASCII code, comparing strings,
ptr, 541 retrieving, 497	indexes, 120	464
scanf() function, 160,	initializing, 178-182	asctime() function, 511, 515
338-339	multidimensional, 178	asin() function, 506
size, 431-432	initializing, 179-182	asm, 589
-,	memory, 173	assert() function, 516-518
	• /	

assignment operators, 45, 62, 84-85	\n (newline character), 146-147	arrays, 87, 169 multidimensional array,
assignment statements, 231	escape sequences, 146,	pointers, 363
nesting, 61	147	precedence, 368
operator precedence, 67	paths, 419	branching statements, goto
assignment, type conversion	base arguments, 523	statements, 304-306
by, 535-536 asterisks (*)	binary files direct output, 423	breaking, literal string constant strings, 59
** (double indirection	EOF, 445	break statements, 300-302,
operator), 362, 371	binary instructions, 9	313-314
indirection operator,	binary-mode files, 418,	breaks, 589
189-191, 259, 262, 362	431-434	bsearch() function, 521-529
functions returning pointers, 499	binary operators, 65-67	buf arguments, 431-432
passing by reference,	binary streams, 327, 418	buf arrays, 543
492	bitwise operators, 548	buffered character input functions, 330
precedence, 386	bit fields, 552-554	buffering files, 435-436
multiplication operator,	complement operator (~), 552	buffers, 435, 546
48, 65	logical operators, 550-551	bugs, 97
pointers, 190	shift operators, 548-550	by_ref() function, 491
atan() function, 506	blocks, 29, 59-60	bytes, 38
atan2() function, 506	if statements, 72	by_value() function, 491
atof() function, 476-477	,	3= 4 4 4 0
atoi() function, 475	local variables and, 291-293	•
atol() function, 475	BLOCKSIZE constant, 544	C
atoll() function, 476	Bool, 591	С
auto, 589	boolean operators. See logical	benefits of using, 6, 7
auto keyword, 288	operators	development cycle, 12
automatic type conversions	braces ({ }), 29	differences between C and
assignments, conversion by, 535-536	compound statements, 59	C++, 7
expression, type promotion,	functions, 94-96, 103	standard, most-recent
534-535	initializing	changes to, 6
automatic variables	multidimensional arrays, 179	C extension, 9
static variables versus,	brackets ([])	C statements, 26
285-288	> (greater than operator),	printf(), 27
storage classes, 291	70	return, 27
average() function, 497-498	>= (greater than or equal	scanf(), 27
	to operator), 70	C++, 7
В	>> (shift operator), 548- 550	C#, 7
	< (less than operator), 70	calculating time difference, difftime() function, 513
B language, 6	<= (less than or equal to	calling
backslashes (\)	operator), 70	functions, 92, 95-96,
B language, 6	<< (shift operator), 548-550	110-114, 386

printf() function, 154	characters	expressions, creating, 535
puts() function, 155	arrays of, 218	nested comments, 28
calloc() function, 414	initializing, 219	predefined macros, 576
allocating memory, 540,	pointers to, 219-220	preprocessor, 567
541	char data type, 214	register keyword, 289
linked lists, 400	declaring variables, 215	variable name length, 40
carets (^), XOR operator, 550-551	defining, 213	compiling, 12, 29
	displaying	command-line arguments,
case statement, switch statements, 319-320	printf() function,	577-580
cases, 589	227-228	errors, line numbers, 282
ceil() function, 507	puts() function, 226-227	hello.c, 14-15
char, 589	extended ASCII, 216-217	source code, 9-11
character input functions	•	using graphical environments, 10
buffered character input,	initializing variables, 215 reading	,
330	<u>-</u>	complement operator (~), 552 Complex, 591
echoing, 330	gets() function, 228-232	complex expressions, 60-61
fgetc() function, 335	scanf() function, 232-	complex structures
fgets() function, 336-338	235	arrays within structures,
getc() function, 335	variables, 215-218	250-252
getchar() function,	char data type, 214	structures within structures
330-332	char type	246-249
getche() function, 334	arrays of pointers, 372-375	compound assignment
getch() function, 332-334	bit fields, 552	operators, 84-85
gets() function, 336	checkerboard array, 173	compound statements, 59-60
line-input functions, 336	clock() function, 513-515	concatenating strings
putchar() function, 333	closing files, 435-436	strcat() function, 461-462
text-mode files, 428-429	cmp arguments, 521	strncat() function, 462-464
unbuffered character input, 330	code	concatenation operator (##), 570
ungetc() function, 335	listings. See listings	conditional compilation, 573
character input/output (I/O),	spaghetti code, 306	conditional debugging,
428	comma operator (,), 85-86, 126, 130	#if#endif directive (preprocessor), 574-575
character output	command-line arguments,	conditional operator, 85
functions	577-580	conditions
fputc() function, 349	comments, 27	dowhile loops, 137
putc() function, 349	nested, 28	dowhile statements, 140
putchar() function, 347-349	writing styles, developing,	for statements, 122, 126
text-mode files, 423,	28-29	while statements, 130,
430-431	comparing strings, 464-468	133
character test functions,	comparison, pointers, 201	const, 589
477-481	compilers, 10	const keyword, 50-52
	conditional compilation, 573	

constants	time representations	functions
BLOCKSIZE, 544	asctime() function, 511	functions with
floating-point, 47	localtime() function, 510	variable numbers of
literal, 47-48, 60	mk()time() function, 511	arguments, 496
pointer constants, 201	strftime() function, 511-	passing data types to, 493-495
symbolic, 48, 60	513	numeric, 41
#define directive, 49	copy_file() function, 448-450	pointers, 193-194, 495
defining, 49	copying	size_t, 456
defining with const	files, 447-450	variable scope, 280
keyword, 50-52	memory, memcpy() function, 546-548	debugging via #if#endif
declaring arrays, 174 variable scope, 280	strings	directive (preprocessor), 574-575
continue, 589	strcpy() function,	decimal integers, 48, 156
continue, 389	457-459	decimal points, constants, 48
conversion characters,	strncpy() function, 459-460	declaring
formatted output functions and, 351-352	cos() function, 506	arrays, 169, 174-178
conversion specifiers, 147	cosh() function, 507	arrays of pointers, 373
%d, 151	CPU register variables, 289	character variables, 215
%f, 152	CR-LF (carriage-return linefeed),	external variables, 283
%s, printf() function, 227	418	pointers, 189-190, 262, 371
%u, 151	ctime() function, 511	char type, 372
arguments, 154	ctype.h, character test functions. 477	pointers to functions,
functions with variable	current time, obtaining via	386, 396
numbers of arguments, 496	time() function, 510	pointers to pointers, 362-363
printf() function, 151-153		structures, 242-245
scanf() function, 339-340	D	unions, 269
strftime() function, 512-513		variables, 44, 282
converting	data storage, memory requirements, 38	decrementing
data types, 536	data types, 44	counter variables, 124
automatic conversions, 534-535	argument, functions with	decrement operators, 62
explicit conversions via	variable numbers of	pointers, 199-201
typecasts, 537-538	arguments, 496	default, 589
strings to numbers	char, 214	defined() operator, 574
double type numeric	char type, bit fields, 552	defining
values, 476-477	converting, 536	functions, 27, 94-96
floating point numeric	automatic conversions, 534-535	symbolic constants, 49
values, 476 integers, 475	explicit conversions via	degrees, trigonometric functions, 506
long longs, 476	typecasts, 537-538 expressions, type	delay() function, 310-311
longs, 475	promotion, 534-535	deleting
	. ,	elements from linked lists, 402-403, 414

files, 445-446	formatted output, 423-426	elements
links from linked lists, 398	opening, 419-423	arrays, assigning values to
demo() function, 105	random file access,	elements, 553
dereferencing void pointers,	436-442	linked lists, 397
493-495	reading/writing data, 423	adding elements to
dest arguments, 546	sequential file access,	beginning of lists, 398-399
device independent programming, 326	436-442 streams, 418	adding elements to empty lists, 399
differencing pointers, 201	text-mode files, 418	• • •
difftime() function, 513-515	displaying	adding elements to end of lists, 400-401
direct access, 191	strings, 227	adding elements to
direct file input, 431	printf() function, 228	existing lists, 400
direct I/0, binary-mode files, 431-434	puts() function, 226 times, 511	adding elements to middle of lists,
direct output, binary files, 423	division operator (/), 65	401-402
directives (preprocessor)	do, 589	deleting elements from
checking, 575-576	dot operator (.), 243-244	lists, 402-403, 414
#define, 26, 567, 574	double, 589	pointers to, 195-198
function macros,	double indirection operator	ellipses ()
568-572	(**), 362, 371	function prototypes, 424 functions with variable
substitution macros, 572	double operands, type promotion, 535	numbers of arguments,
#elif, 573	double quotation marks (""),	else, 589
#else, 573	format strings, 146	else clauses, 74-76
#endif, 573	double type numeric values,	em dashes (-)
#if, 573	converting strings to, 476- 477	- (unary operator), 62-65
#if#endif, 573-575	dowhile loops, 136-142, 150	-> (indirect membership
#include, 25, 572	break statements, 300-302	operator), 263, 268
#undef, 576	continue statements, 302-	subtraction operator, 65
disk drives, file stream buffers, 435	304	entries/exits in functions, 108
disk files	infinite loops, 307-310	enum, 590
binary-mode files, 418	structure, 137	EOF (End of File)
character input, 428-429	dowhile statements, 140	detecting, 443-444
character I/O, 428	dynamic allocation, 220	fgets() function, 430
character output, 423,	dynamic memory allocation,	putc() function, 430
430-431	221-226, 538	equals symbols (=)
closing files, 435-436		== (equals operator), 70
direct I/O, 431-434	E	assignment operator, 45,
direct output, 423		62
EOF, detecting, 443-444	echoing, 330	equivalence of streams, 329
file buffering, 435-436	editors, source code, 9	errno.h header file, 518-521
filenames, 418-419	elapsed time, calculating via	error-handling functions
formatted input, 427-428	difftime(), 513	assert(), 516-518

140

errno.h header file, 518-521	for statements, 122, 126	field-width specifier, printf() function, 353
perror(), 519-520	while statements, 130,	file buffering, 435-436
errors	133	file extensions
compilation, 15-17	creating, 535	.C, 9
fgets() function, 430	increments, for statements,	.o, 1 0
initializing arrays, 178	122-126	.obj, 10
line numbers, 281	initial, 121, 126	file management, 445
linker, 17	simple, 60	FILE structures, 420
renaming files, 446	switch statements, 311	filenames (disk files), 418
uninitialized pointers,	type promotion, 534-535	arguments, 420
dangers of, 202-203	extended ASCII characters, 216-217	paths, 419
variable scope, 281	extensions	files
escape sequences, 146-147	.C, 9	closing, 435-436
printf() function, 147-151,	.0, 10	copying, 447-450
353-354	•	defining, 326
puts() function, 155	.obj, 10	deleting, 445-446
examples. See listings	extern, 590	flushing, 435-436
exclamation points (!)	extern keyword, 283-285, 565-566	managing
!= not equal to operator, 70	external static variables, 289	copying files, 447-450
NOT operator, 81	external variables, 282	deleting files, 445-446
executables, linking, 10	declaring, 283	renaming files, 446-447
executing programs	external static, 289	renaming, 446-447
controlling, 121	extern keyword, 283-285	standard input/output files.
dowhile loops, 136-142	modular independence,	See predefined streams
dowhile statements, 140	283	temporary, 450-452
for statements, 121-130	modular programming,	flags, printf() function, 353
loops, nesting, 141-142	565-566	float, 590
while statements, 130-136	scope, 283	float operands, type promotion,
exit() function, 318-321	symbolic constants, 283	535
exiting programs, 320-321	when to use, 283	float type pointers, 193
exits/entries in functions, 108		float variable, 537
exp() function, 507	F	floating-point constants, 47
expenses.c, 171-172	•	floating point numeric values,
exponential functions, 506-507	factorial() function, 114	converting strings to, 476
expressions	false/true values (logical	floating-point variables, 41
arithmetic, typecasts and,	operators), 81-82	floor() function, 507
536-537	fclose() function, 435	flushall() function, 436
arguments, 516	fcloseall() function, 436	flushing files, 435-436
complex, 60-61	feof() function, 443-444	fmod() function, 508
conditions	fflush() function, 344, 436	fopen() function, 419-421
dowhile loops, 137	fgetc() function, 335, 429	for, 590
dowhile statements, 140	fgets() function, 336-338, 429	

for loops, 121, 124, 177	Il specifier, 352	asctime(), 511, 515
break statements, 300-302	I modifier, 352	asin(), 506
character test functions,	precision, 352	assert(), 516-518
481	text-mode files, 423-426	atan(), 506
continue statements,	formatting, 9	atan2(), 506
302-304	forward slash(/)	atof(), 476-477
infinite loops, 307-310	division operator, 65	atoi(), 475
local variables, 287	paths, 419	atol(), 475
pointers and arrays of structures, 264	fp arguments, 431, 435-437,	atoll(), 476
strings, uppercase/	443	average(), 497-498
lowercase character	fprintf() function, 350, 424-426	body of, 94-96
conversions, 483	conversion characters,	bsearch(), 521-529
for statements	351-352	by_ref(), 491
arrays, 120	stderr stream, 357-358	by_value(), 491
executing programs,	fputc() function, 349, 430	calling, 92, 95, 110-111,
121-126	fputs() function, 349, 431	386
nesting, 127-130	fread() function, 432-436	recursion, 112-114
structure, 121	free() function, 543-545	syntax, 95-96
format specifiers, literal text, 151	frexp() function, 507	calloc(), 414
format strings, 154	fscanf() function, 427-428	allocating memory,
printf() function, 146	fSeek() function, 440-442, 445 ftell() function, 437-439	540-541 linked lists, 400
scanf() function, 232	function definitions, 26	•
formatted input, text-mode	function macros, #define	ceil(), 507
files, 427-428	directive (preprocessor),	character input
formatted input functions, 338	568-572	echoing, 330
fflush() function, 344	function prototypes, 26	fgetc(), 335
scanf() function, 338,	functions, 7, 24	fgets(), 336-338
345-347	abs(), 507	getc(), 335
conversion specifiers, 339-340	acos(), 506	getch(), 332-334 getchar(), 330-332
extra characters,	add to list(), linked lists,	getche(), 334
341-343	412	gets(), 334
precision modifiers,	ANSI	line-input, 336
340-341	compatibility, 311	putchar(), 333
text-mode files, 427-428	compliance, 332-334	unbuffered character
formatted output functions	arguments, 94-95	input, 330
fprintf() function, 350-352,	functions with variable numbers of	ungetc(), 335
357-358	arguments, 496-498	character output
printf() function, 350-351, 355-357	passing to, 110	fputc(), 349
escape sequences,	passing to parameters,	putc(), 349
353-354	102	putchar(), 347-349
field-width, 353	arrays of pointers, passing	character test, 477-481
flags, 353	to functions, 374-375	clock(), 513-515

copy_file(), 448-450	fputs(), 349, 431	fclose(), 435
cos(), 506	fread(), 432-436	fcloseall(), 436
cosh(), 507	free(), 543-545	feof(), 443-444
ctime(), 511	frexp(), 507	fflush(), 436
data types, passing to	fscanf(), 427, 428	fgets(), 429
functions, 493-495	fSeek(), 440-442, 445	flushall(), 436
defining, 27, 92-96	ftell(), 437-439	fopen(), 419-421
delay(), 310-311	fwrite(), 431-436	fprintf(), 424-426
demo(), 105	getc(), 335, 429	fputc(), 430
difftime(), 513-515	getch(), 332-334	fread(), 432-436
entries/exits, 108	getchar(), 179, 182,	free(), 543-545
error-handling	330-332, 429	fscanf(), 427-428
assert(), 516-518	getche(), 334	fSeek(), 440-442, 445
errno.h header file,	get_int(), 480	ftell(), 437-439
518-521	get_menu_choice, 150	fwrite(), 431-436
perror(), 519-520	gets(), 228-232, 329, 336	getchar(), 179, 182
exit(), 318-321	half(), 110, 495	malloc(), 221-226, 379,
xp(), 507	half_of(), 111	398-400, 414, 458,
exponential, 506-507	headers, 94-96, 100	539
factorial(), 114	hyperbolic functions	math(), 506-509
fclose(), 435	cosh(), 507	print(), 227-228
fcloseall(), 436	sinh(), 507	printf(), 27, 496, 571
feof(), 443-444	tanh(), 507	putc(), 430
fflush(), 344, 436	if statement, 111	puts(), 226-227
fgetc(), 335, 429	illustrated, 92	rand(), 182
fgets(), 336-338, 429	independent, 282	realloc(), 541-543
file management, 445-446	indirect recursion, 112	remove(), 445-446
floor(), 507	inline, 115	rename(), 446-447
flushall(), 436	input/output functions, 329	rewind(), 437-439, 445
fmod(), 508	intcmp(), 526	scanf(), 156-160, 232-235
fopen(), 419-421	keywords, 94	
formatted input	larger_of(), 108	search(), 521-529
fflush(), 344	largest(), 206-208	sort(), 523-529
scanf(), 338-347	Idexp(), 507	strcat(), 461-462
formatted output	library functions, 10, 24	strchr(), 468-469
fprintf(), 350-352,	atof(), 476-477	strcmp(), 464-466
357-358	atoi(), 475	strcpy(), 254, 457-459
printf(), 350-357	atol(), 475	strcspn(), 470-471
fprintf(), 350, 424-426	atoll(), 476	strlen(), 456-457
conversion characters, 351-352	calloc(), 400, 540-541	strncat(), 462-464
stderr stream, 357-358	ctime(), 511	strncmp(), 466-468
fputc(), 349, 430	error-handling, 516-521	strncpy(), 459-460
ιραιο(), 545, 450	_	strpbrk(), 473

strrchr(), 470	menu(), infinite loops, 310	I modifier, 352
strspn(), 471-472	mktime(), 511	Il specifier, 352
strstr(), 473-474	modf(), 508	precision specifier, 352
time, 509-515	naming, 92, 100	prototypes, 94-96
tmpnam(), 450-452	parameters, scope of, 288	putc(), 349, 430
ungetc(), 480	passing	putchar(), 333, 347-349, 430
line-input, 336	arrays to, 204-209	
localtime(), 510	by reference, 489	puts(), 108, 155, 226-227, 349-350
local variables, 285	multidimensional arrays	qsort(), 523-529
logarithmic functions, 506	to with a pointer, 369-371	rand(), 182
log(), 507	perror(), 519-520	realloc(), allocating
log10(), 507	placing, 114	memory, 541-543
macros versus, 571-572	pointers	remove(), 445-446
main(), 25, 99, 105, 114,	initializing, 387-396	rename(), 446-447
200, 561	void pointers, 492-496	return keyword, 106
command-line arguments, 577	pointers to functions	return statements, 94-96, 106
linked lists, 412	calling different	return types, 100
local variables, 285,	functions, 389-390	rewind(), 437-439, 445
290-291	controlling sort order, 393-395	scanf, 27, 159
malloc(), 414	declaring, 386, 396	scanf(), 156-161, 232-235,
allocating memory, 539	functions that return	345-347
arrays of pointers, 379	pointers, 499-501	arguments, 338-339
copying strings, 458	initializing, 387-396	conversion specifiers,
linked lists, 398-400	passing pointers as,	339-340
strings, 221-226	391-392, 488-492	handling extra
math functions	pow(), 508	characters, 341-343
abs(), 507	print(), 274	precision modifiers, 340-341
ceil(), 507	print_report(), 150	search functions, bsearch(),
exponential, 506-507	printf(), 10, 27, 105, 146,	521-529
floor(), 507	201, 227-228, 355-357, 571	sin(), 506
fmod(), 508	calling, 154	sinh(), 507
hyperbolic, 507	conversion characters,	sleep(), 311
logarithmic, 506-507	351-352	sort functions, qsort(),
modf(), 508	conversion specifiers,	523-529
pow(), 508	151-153	sqr(), 561
sqrt(), 507	escape sequences, 147-	sqrt(), 507
trigonometric, 506	151, 353-354	square(), 110
usage examples, 508- 509	field-width specifier, 353	statements, 95
memcpy(), 546-548	flags, 353	strcat(), 461-462
memmove(), 546-548	format strings, 146	strchr(), 468-469
memset(), 545-548	functions with variable numbers of	strcmp(), 464-466
	arguments, 496	strcpy(), 254, 380, 457-459

strcspn(), 470-471	void pointers, 493	H
streams, input/output	void return type, 112	
functions, 328	writing	half() function, 110, 495
strftime(), 511-515	arguments, 100-103	half_of() function, 111
string output	body, 103-108	HALFOF macro, 568
fputs(), 349	headers, 100-103	hard drives, memory
puts(), 349-350	local variables, 103-105	requirements, 38
strlen(), 379, 456-457	names, 100	head pointers, 397-398
strncat(), 462-464	parameters, 100-103	header files, 25
strncmp(), 466-468	prototypes, 109	#include directive (preprocessor), 572
strncpy(), 459-460	returning values, 106-	modular programming,
strpbrk(), 473	108	561, 565
strrchr(), 470	return types, 100	preprocessor, multiple
strspn(), 471-472	statements, 106	inclusions of header files,
strstr(), 473-474	fwrite() function, 431-436	575
structured programming, 97-99		headers
	G	errno.h, 518-521
structures, passing as arguments to functions,		functions, 94-96, 100
267-268	garbage values, 285	of functions, 103
tan(), 506	getc() function, 335, 429	writing, 101-103
tanh(), 507	getchar() function, 179, 182,	stdarq.h, functions with variable numbers of
third(), 110	330-332, 429	arguments, 496
time functions, 509-510	getche() function, 334	stdio.h, 150
asctime(), 511, 515	getch() function, 332-334	heaps, 543
clock(), 513-515	get_int() function, 480	Hello World program, 13
ctime(), 511	get_menu_choice function, 150	compilation errors, 15-17
difftime(), 513-515	gets() function, 228, 231-232, 336	compiling hello.c, 14-15
localtime(), 510	listing, 229-230	linker errors, 17
mktime(), 511	streams, equivalence of,	hello.c source code, 14
strftime(), 511-515	329	hexadecimal constant, 48
time(), 510, 515	global variables. See external	hierarchical structures,
usage examples,	variables	structured programming, 98
513-515	goto statements, 304-306, 590	history of C, 6
tmpnam(), 450-452	grades.c, 174-176	hyperbolic functions
trigonometric functions, 506	graphical environments,	cosh(), 507
ungetc(), 335, 480	compiling, 10	sinh(), 507
user-defined, 24, 27, 91	graphical IDE, command-line arguments, 579	tanh(), 507
usleep(), 311	> (greater than operator), 70	
variables, 94	>= (greater than or equal to operator), 70	
	/ 1.00	

>> (shift operator), 548-550

I	memory, memset()	strings
	function, 545-548	gets() function, 228-232
IDE (Integrated Development Environments), 14, 579	pointers, 190, 261-262, 400	printf() function, 227-228
if, 590	pointers to functions,	puts() function, 226-227
if loops, perror() function and error-handling, 521	387-396 structures, 256-258	scanf() function, 232- 235
if statements, 71-77, 111	unions, 269	input fields, 339
illustrated functions, 92-93	variables, 45-46, 215	instances, defining, 245
Imaginary, 591	inline functions, 115, 590	int, 590
implicit conversions, 534	input	intcmp() function, 526
include files. See header files	defining, 326	integers, converting strings to,
increment operators, 62 incrementing	device independent programming, 326	475 integer variables, 41, 156
counter variables, 124	keyboard input, 329	I/O. See input; output
expressions, 122	fflush() function, 344	isxxxx() macros, 477-480
for statements, 122, 126	fgetc() function, 335	iteration, 114
pointers, 198-200, 264-266	fgets() function, 336-338	
indenting styles, nesting loops, 141	getc() function, 335	J - K
independent functions, 282	getchar() function, 330-332	Java, 7
indexes, 120	getche() function, 334	
indirect access, 191	getch() function, 332-	key arguments, 521
indirect membership operator (->), 263, 268	334 gets() function, 336	keyboard
indirect recursion, 112	line-input functions, 336	character input functions
indirection operator (*), 189-191, 259, 262, 362	putchar() function, 333	buffered, 330 echoing, 330
functions returning pointers,	scanf() function, 156-161, 338-347	fgetc() function, 335 fgets() function,
passing by reference, 492	ungetc() function, 335	336-338
precedence, 386	standard input/output files.	getc() function, 335
infinite loops, 307-310	See predefined streams	getchar(), 330-332
initial expressions, 121, 126	streams	getche() function, 334
initializing	binary streams, 327	getch() function, 332-
arrays, 178	defining, 326	334
character arrays, 219	equivalence of streams, 329	gets() function, 336
multidimensional,	files, 326	line-input, 336
179-182	input/output functions,	putchar() function, 333
of pointers, 374	328-329	unbuffered, 330
of structures, 257-258	predefined streams, 327-328	ungetc() function, 335 formatted input functions
character variables, 215	text streams, 327	fflush() function, 344

scanf() function,	unsigned, 590	math(), 506-509
338-347	void, 492, 590	print(), 227-228
reading from, scanf() function, 156-161	volatile, 590	printf(), 27, 496, 571
keywords, 7, 44	while, 591	putc(), 430
asm, 589		puts(), 226-227
auto, 288, 589	L	rand(), 182
Bool, 591	_	realloc(), 541-543
break, 589	I modifier, printf() function, 352	remove(), 445-446
case, 589	label statements, 306	rename(), 446-447
char, 589	larger_of() function, 108	rewind(), 437-439, 445
Complex, 591	largest() function, 206-208	scanf(), 156-160, 232-235
const, 280, 589	Idexp() function, 507	search(), 521-529
continue, 589	length of strings, determining,	sort(), 523-529
default, 589	456-457	strcat(), 461-462
do, 589	less than operator (<), 70	strchr(), 468-469
double, 589	less than or equal to operator	strcmp(), 464-466
else, 589	(<=), 70	strcpy(), 254, 457-459
enum, 590	library functions, 10, 24	strcspn(), 470-471
·	atof(), 476-477	strlen(), 456-457
extern, 283-285, 565-566, 590	atoi(), 475	strncat(), 462-464
float, 590	atol(), 475	strncmp(), 466-468
for, 590	atoll(), 476	strncpy(), 459-460
goto, 590	calloc(), 400, 540-541	strpbrk(), 473
if, 590	ctime(), 511	strrchr(), 470
Imaginary, 591	error-handling, 516-521	strspn(), 471-472
in functions, 94	fclose(), 435	strstr(), 473-474
inline, 590	fcloseall(), 436	time, 509-515
int, 590	feof(), 443-444	tmpnam(), 450-452
long, 590	fflush(), 436	ungetc(), 480
register, 289-290, 590	fgets(), 429	lifetime variables, 280
reserved keywords list,	flushall(), 436	line-input functions, 336
589-591	fopen(), 419-421	linked lists, 396-397
restrict, 590	fprintf(), 424-426	adding links, 398
return, 106, 590	fputc(), 430	deleting links, 398
short, 590	fread(), 432-436	elements, 397
signed, 590	free(), 543-545	adding elements to
sizeof, 590	fscanf(), 427-428	beginning of lists,
static, 286, 289, 590	fSeek(), 440-442, 445	398-399
struct, 242, 245-246, 590	ftell(), 437-439	adding elements to empty lists, 399
switch, 590	fwrite(), 431-436	adding elements to end
typedef, 274-275, 590	getchar(), 179, 182	of lists, 400-401
union, 271-274, 590	malloc(), 221-226, 379,	•
•	398-400, 414, 458, 539	

adding elements to	copying files, 448-450	local variables
existing lists, 400	data types, converting, 537	defining, 292
adding elements to middle of lists,	disk files, opening, 421-422	static versus automatic,
401-402	EOF, detecting, 443-444	286-287
deleting elements from	error-handling functions	logical operator precedence 83-84
lists, 402-403, 414	assert(), 517-518	malloc() function, 223-224
example of, 403-406	perror(), 520	math functions, 508-509
head pointers, 397	external variables, extern keyword, 284	memory
implementing, 406-414	feof() function, 443-444	allocating via calloc()
links, 397	fgets() function, 337	function, 540-541
lists of characters, 407-414	file I/O, reading formatted	allocating via realloc()
loops, 406	data, 427-428	function, 542-543
modifying links, 398	files	copying, 546-548
nodes, 397	copying, 448-450	free() function, 543-545
structures, 396	deleting, 445-446	initializing, 546-548
types of, 396	renaming, 447	moving, 546-548
linkers, 11, 17	temporary, 451	modular programming, 560-561
linking, 10-12	fread() function, 433-436	
Linux source code editors, 9	fSeek() function, 440-442	modulus operator, 66
list_it.c, 30-32	ftell() function, 438-439	multidimensional arrays
LIST0403.c, 73-74	functions	determining size of, 366
listings	passing by value/	passing to functions with, 369-371
arithmetic expressions, 537	reference, 490-491	pointer arithmetic, 367
arrays	returning pointers,	random.c, 180-182
displaying element	500-501	relationship to pointers,
addresses, 196	variable-size arguments,	365
expenses.c, 171-172	497-498	multiply.c, 24-25
grades.c, 174-176	fwrite() function, 433-436	numeric nature of char
of structures, 254-255	getchar() function, 330-331	variables, 215-216
arrays of pointers	getch() function, 333-334	passing arrays to functions,
initializing char type, 374	gets() function, 229-230	205-207
passing to function,	goto statement, 305-306	pointers
374-375	hello.c, 14-16	arithmetic, 199-200
sorting keyboard input,	if statements, 73-74	incrementing, 265-266
377-379	if statement with else clause, 75-76	to functions, 387-395
break statements, 300-301	infinite loops, 308-310	usage, 191-192
command-line arguments,	linked lists	preprocessor
578-580		directives, # operator in
continue statement, 303-	basic elements, 404-405	macro, 571
304	list of characters,	header files, 575
copy_file() function, 448- 450	407-414	printf() function, 354-357
-	list_it.c, 30-32	displaying numerical

escape sequences,	converting uppercase/	unions, 272-274
148-149 printing extended ASCII	lowercase characters, 482-483	using fprintf() function, 425-426
characters, 216-217	copying via strcpy()	variables
putchar() function, 348-349	function, 458-459	constants, 51-52
puts() function, 227, 350	copying via strncpy() function, 459-460	scope, 280-281
relational expressions, 78	determining length of,	size program, 42-43
remove() function, 445-446	456-457	void pointers, 493-495
rename() function, 447	isxxxx() macros,	literal constants, 47-48, 60,
rewind() function, 438-439	478-480	174
scanf function, 234	qsort() functions,	literal string constants
scanf() function, 345-347	526-529	breaking lines, 59
conversion specifiers,	searching for first occurrence of	white space, 58
340	characters, 469	literal strings, 219
precision modifiers, 340-341	searching for first	literal text, 146
reading numerical	occurrence of characters in second	II specifier, printf() function, 352
values, 157-160	strings, 470-471	local scope, function
search functions, 523-529	searching for	parameters, 288
shift operators, 549-550	nonmatching characters, 472	local variables, 94, 282
simplestruct.c, 244-245	searching for strings	blocks and, 291-293
sort functions, 523-529	within strings,	creating, 285
stdin, clearing of extra characters, 342-344	473-474	functions, writing, 103-105
strings	structures	main function, 290-291
bsearch() function, 526-529	arrays within structures, 251-252	static versus automatic, 285-288
comparing with strcmp()	passing structures	localtime() function, 510
function, 465-466	as arguments to functions, 267-268	logarithmic functions, 506
comparing with	structures of structures,	log(), 507
strncmp() function,	248-249	log10(), 507
466-468	switch statements, 312,	logical operators, 80, 550-552
concatenating via strcat() function,	317-318	precedence, 82-84
461-462	break statements and,	true/false values, 81-82
concatenating via	313-314	long longs
strncat() function,	executing menu systems, 314-317	converting strings to, 476
463-464	temporary files, 451	type promotion, 535
converting to double type numeric values,	time functions, 513-515	longs, 590
476-477	tmpnam() function, 451	converting strings to, 475
converting to floating	typecasts, arithmetic	type promotion, 535
point numeric values, 476	expressions, 537	loops
	unary.c, 63-64	dowhile, 136, 138-142, 150
converting to integers, 475	union members, accessing, 270-271	break statements, 300-302

continue statements,	M	deleting files, 445-446
302-304		renaming files, 446-447
infinite loops, 307-310	machine language, 9	manifest constants. See
structure, 137	macros	symbolic constants
ending early, 300-301	functions, #define directive	math functions
for loops, 121, 124, 177	(preprocessor), 568-572	abs(), 507
break statements, 300-302	HALFOF, 568	ceil(), 507
	isxxxx(), 477-480	exponential functions, 506
character test functions, 481	NDEBUG, 518	exp(), 507
continue statements.	predefined macros	frexp(), 507
302-304	DATE, 576	Idexp(), 507
infinite loops, 307-310	FILE, 576	floor(), 507
local variables, 287	LINE, 576	fmod(), 508
pointers and arrays of	TIME, 576	hyperbolic functions
structures, 264	substitution macros	cosh(), 507
uppercase/lowercase	creating symbolic	sinh(), 507
character conversions in strings, 483	constants, 567-568, 572	tanh(), 507
if loops, perror() function	#define directive	logarithmic functions, 506
and error-handling, 521	(preprocessor),	log(), 507
infinite, 307-310	567-568, 572	log10(), 507
linked lists, 406	tolower(), 481-483	modf(), 508
nesting, 141-142	toupper(), 481-483	pow(), 508
while loops, 132, 150	va arg(), 497	sqrt(), 507
break statements, 300-	va end(), 497-499	trigonometric functions
302	va list, 497	acos(), 506
continue statements,	va start(), 497-499	asin(), 506
302-304	main() function, 25, 99, 105,	atan(), 506
converting strings to double type numeric	114, 200, 561	atan2(), 506
values, 477	command-line arguments, 577	cos(), 506
copying files, 450	linked lists, 412	sin(), 506
detecting EOF, 444	local variables, 285,	tan(), 506
infinite loops, 307-310	290-291	usage examples, 508-509
linked lists, 412	main modules, 560-561, 565	mathematical operators
partial string	malloc() function, 414	binary, 65-67
comparisons, 468	allocating memory, 539	unary, 62-65
random file access, 442 lowercase/uppercase	arrays of pointers, 379	member operator (.). See dot operator (.)
characters, ANSI support for,	copying strings, 458	members (structures)
481-483	linked lists, 398-400	accessing, 243-244
	listing, 223-224	pointers as, 259-261
	strings, 221-226	members (unions), accessing,
	managing files	269-271
	copying files, 447-450	memcpy() function, 546-548

memmove() function, 546-548	array names as,	military time, 511
memory, 38	194-195	mktime() function, 511
addresses, 188	comparisons, 201	mode
allocation for strings	creating, 188-189	arguments, fopen()
at compilation, 220-221	dangers of uninitialized, 202-203	function, 420 values, 420
malloc() function, 221-226	data types, 193-194	modf() function, 508
arrays, 169	declaring, 189-190	modifying links in linked lists,
arrays of pointers, 372	decrementing, 199-201	398
binary-mode files, 431	differencing, 201	modular independence,
bitwise operators	incrementing, 198-199	external variables, 283
bit fields, 552-554	initializing, 190	modularity, 7
complement operator (~), 552	passing arrays to functions, 204-209	modular programming, 562-564. See also structured programming
logical operators,	RAM	advantages of, 560
550-551	addresses, 38, 188	external variables, 565-566
shift operators, 548-550	allocating memory storage space, 539	header files, 561, 565
buffers, 546	register variables, 289	main modules, 560-561,
bytes, 38	stacks, 488	565
copying, memcpy() function, 546-548	storage space, allocating	secondary modules, 560-561, 564
data storage, space requirements, 38	calloc() function, 540-541	modules, 560-561
dynamic allocation, 220		main, 565
file buffers, 435	dynamic memory allocation, 538	secondary, 564
freeing via free() function,	malloc() function, 539	modulus operator (%), 65
543-545	realloc() function, 541-543	moving memory, memmove() function, 546-548
heaps, 543	static memory	msg arguments, 519
initializing, memset() function, 545-548	allocation, 538	multidimensional arrays, 178
linked lists, 414	type conversions	functions, passing arrays to
deleting elements, 403	automatic conversions,	369-371
freeing memory, 412	534-536	initializing, 179-182
memory leaks, 403	explicit conversions via typecasts, 536-538	memory, 173
moving, memmove() function, 546-548	memset() function, 545-548	pointers, 363-365, 368, 371
multidimensional arrays,	menu() function, infinite loops, 310	determining size of, 366 pointer arithmetic, 367
numeric variables, 40-44	menu systems, executing with	printing elements, 368
pointers, 190-192	switch statements, 314-317	subscripts, 173
arithmetic operations,	menus, structured programming, 99	multiple indirection, 363
202	messages, displaying on	multiplication operator (*),
array element storage, 195-198	screen, 146	48, 65

double indirection operator

N	integer, 41	double indirection operator
	register keyword, 290	(**), 371
naming	void pointers, 492	>> shift operator, 548-550
arrays, 174-178		increment, 62
functions, 92, 100	0	indirection (*), 189-191, 259, 262, 386
naming conventions, 40		indirect membership (->),
pointers, 188	o extension, 10	263, 268
source files, 9	.obj extension, 10	logical, 80
variables, 39-40	object code, 10	bitwise, 550-552
NDEBUG macro, 518	object files, 10	precedence, 82-84
nesting	object-oriented programming, 7	true/false values, 81-82
#include directive (preprocessor), 572	objectives, programming steps, 8	<< shift operator, 548-550 OR (), 550-551
comments, 28	octal integers, 48	pointer arithmetic, 202
for statements, 127-130	op keyword, 84	·
#include directive	opening disk files, 419-423	precedence, 67-68
(preprocessor), 572	operands	subexpressions, 69
loops, 141-142	modes, 63	summary, 86-87 relational, 70-71
statements	type promotion, 535	evaluating, 77-79
assignment statements, 61	operating systems, memory allocation, 539	precedence, 79-80
if, 77	operators, 61	shift, 548-550
while, 134-136	address of (&), pointers,	sizeof(), 521-522
newline character (\n), 146-147, 418	362	stringizing (#), 569-571
·	AND (&), 550-551	ternary, 85
nodes, linked lists, 397	assignment operators, 62,	unary operator (-), 62-65
not equal to operator (!=), 70	84-85	unary operator (++), 62,
NOT operator (!), 81	binary, 65-67	65, 264 YOR (A) 550 551
null character (\0), 218, 456	bitwise operators	XOR (^), 550-551
null statements, 59	bit fields, 552-554	OR operator (), 550-551
NULL values	complement operator	OR operator (), 81
fopen() function, 420	(~), 552	output
head pointers, 397-398	logical operators, 550-551	controlling, 348, 351-354
strpbrk() function, 473	shift operators, 548-550	defining, 326
strstr() function, 473	comma (,), 85-86, 126, 130	device independent programming, 326
num arguments, 521	complement (~), 552	formatted output, 354
numerical data, 41, 157-160	concatenation (##), 570	fprintf() function, 350-
numerical values, displaying with printf() function,	conditional, 85	352, 357-358
152-153	decrement, 62	printf() function, 350-
numeric variables, 40-44	defined(), 574	357
floating-point, 41	dot (.), 243-244	printf() function, 146, 350-
	double indirection (**), 362	357

integer, 41

escape sequences, 147-151 passing arguments as variables, 488 puts() function, 155 arrays passing by reference, 489 putc() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 puts() function, 349 puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 predefined streams, 329 predefined streams, 329 predefined streams, 327-328 puts() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 226-227 scanf(conversion specifiers, 151-153	operator precedence, 68 pointer declaration, 368	names as pointers, 194-195
format strings, 146 puts() function, 155 screen output fputc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putchar() function, 347-349 puts() function, 347-349 puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 228-232 printf() function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing is marays arrays sorting, 376 sorting, 377-379 strings, 372 compared to array subscript notation, 203 comparisons, 201 creating, 188-189 dangers of uninitialized pointers, 202 comparisons, 201 creating, 188-189 dangers of uninitialized pointers, 202 comparisons, 201 creating, 188-189 dangers of uninitialized pointers, 202 afray salical, 489-492 value, passing by, 488-491 pointers to functions, 488-492 value, passing by, 488-491 pointers, 499-491 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 detrait park to functions, 488-492 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereference, 489 dangers of uninitialized pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereference, 489 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 formatted output, 424 functions passing by dasa, 491 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 foral type, 372 pointers, 192-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing by reference, 489 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 foral type, 372 pointers to functions, 362-363 gerementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointer		passing	
screen output fputc() function, 349 fputs() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 text streams, 327 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 228-232 printf() function, 223-235 prameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing by reference, 489 to functions, 204-209 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 compared to array subscript notation, 203 compared to array subscript notation, 204 after pointers, 199-190 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372, 372 defining, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372, 372 defining, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372, 372 defining,	format strings, 146	,	sorting, 376
fputc() function, 349 fputs() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 putchar() function, 349 puts() function, 326 puts() function, 28-232 printf() function, 28-232 printf() function, 226-237 samf() function, 226-227 samf() function, 226-227 samf() function, 226-227 sample function, 230 pointers to functions, 489 pointers to functions, 488-492 pointers to functions, 488-492 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 de			
fputs() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 putc() function, 349 puts() function, 349 puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 228-232 puts() function, 228-232 puts() function, 228-235 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 226-238 writing, 100-103 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing to functions, 204-209 insting, 205-207 data types to functions, 493-495 data types, 193-194 declarins, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 defining, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 defining, 199-201 defining, 259-261 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 reference, 489 dangers of unintialized pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 defining, 189-190 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 202 arrays of structures and, 264-266 char type, 372-375 declaring, 189-190 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 199-	•		
putcl) function, 349 putsl) function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327 predefined streams, 327 getsl) function, 228-232 printfl) function, 228-232 putsl) function, 228-235 putsl) function, 226-227 scanfl) function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing ilisting, 205-207 data types to functions, 493-495 dangers of uninitialized pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 perrorl) function, 519-520 planning structured programming, 97-99 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays of structures and, 264-266 char type, 372-375 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers, 202-203 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 483-495 decrementing, 199-200 derementing, 199-200 passing pointers to, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passin			o ,
putchar() function, 347-349 puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 text streams, 327-328 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 parameters functions parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing functions, passing by functions, 493-492 value, passing by, 488-491 paths pointers to functions, 488-492 reference, 489 pointers to functions, 488-492 reference, passing by, 488-491 paths pointers to functions, 488-491 paths pointers, 102-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of filest, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 leaflering of size, 409-501 leaflering izer of uninitialized pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to functions, 488-491 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to, 489-492 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 pointers to, 499-501 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers, 202 parsing pointers, 202 parsing pointers, 202 parsing pointers, 202 parsing sets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 228-232 printf() function, 228-232 printf() function, 228-232 printf() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 226-227 pointer, 202-203 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 499-501 passing pointers, 202 passing pointers, 2	• •	·	
puts() function, 349-350 standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 237-228 puts() function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing (), 449 finctions, 571 finctions, 571 finctions, 571 finctions, 571 finction, 238-329 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 char type, 372-375 declaring, 373 element storage, 195-198 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 arrays of initializing, 374 single dements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	* **	<u>-</u>	comparisons, 201
standard input/output files. See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 strings gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing streams streams streams streams streams 488-492 pointers to functions, 488-491 pointers, 202-203 data types, 193-194 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 chart type, 372 chart type, 372 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing, 201 defining, 259-261 defining, 290-201 defining, 379 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 defining, 290-201 defining, 379-201 defining, 379-9 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 defining, 259-261 defining, 259-261 defining, 259-261 defining, 259-261 dereferencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401	• •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	creating, 188-189
See predefined streams streams binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 printf() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing binary streams, 327 reference, passing by, 488-491 reference, passing by, 489-492 value, passing by, 488-491 paths backslash (\), 419 filenames, 419 backslash (\), 419 filenames, 419 declaring, 189-190, 262, 371 char type, 372 declaring, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401			•
binary streams, 327 defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327-328 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 232-325 scanf() function, 232-325 functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing by, 489-492 value, passing by, 488-491 paths 371 char type, 372 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 201 pointer constants, 201 pointer constants, 201 pointer constants, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing linitializing, 374 learner to passing by, 488-491 pointers to pointers, 362-363 decrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401	• , •	pointers to functions,	data types, 193-194
defining, 326 equivalence of streams, 329 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327 text streams, 327 gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 232-235			<u> </u>
equivalence of streams, 329 paths 362-363 files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 forward slash (/), 419 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 predefined streams, 327 specifiers, 147 defining, 259-261 text streams, 327 performance, macros versus functions, 571 performance, macros versus functions, 571 performance, macros versus function, 227-228 puts() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 surting, 190-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 safesy and functions, 374 pointers to pointers, 390-381 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing			char type, 372
files, 326 input/output functions, 328-329 predefined streams, 327 strings gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 232-325 guts() function, 232-327 scanf() function, 232-237 scanf() function, 232-237 scanf() function, 232-235 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, 328-329 forward slash (\), 419 defining, 259-261 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 399-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 399-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 199-201 defining, 259-261 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 190-261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, 328-395 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	equivalence of streams,		
input/output functions, 328-329 forward slash (/), 419 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 text streams, 327 performance, macros versus functions, 571 perror() function, 571 function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 arrays initializing, 374 defining, 259-261 dereferencing, 201 dereferencing void pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374			decrementing, 199-201
predefined streams, 327-328 percent sign (%), conversion specifiers, 147 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions, 571 function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays parameters functions parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 prionted functions, passing initializing, 374 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers, 493-495 differencing, 201 formatted output, 424 functions passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to	,	* * *	defining, 259-261
predefined streams, 327 specifiers, 147 differencing, 201 text streams, 327 performance, macros versus functions gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 arrays parameters functions parameters functions parameters paramete		,	
strings gets() function, 228-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 printf() function, 232-235 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays arrays of structures and, 264-266 functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 perror() function, 519-520 planning structured programming, 97-99 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 pointers, 190-193 pointers, 190-193 pointers, 202 arrays arithmetic operations, 202 arrays of structures and, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to	•		
gets() function, 228-232 perror() function, 519-520 passing pointers to, 488-492 returning pointers, 227-228 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 receiving arguments, 102 person of 195-198 receiving arguments, 102 passing pointer to, 488-492 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 receiving arguments, 102 example of, 372, arguments (), 94 375-381, 386 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 374 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	text streams, 327	performance, macros versus	formatted output, 424
printf() function, 223-232 printf() function, 227-228 puts() function, 226-227 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 P	strings	functions, 571	functions
printf() function, 227-228 programming, 97-99 returning pointers, 499-501 puts() function, 226-227 pointer constants, 201 pointers, 190-193 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 arrays initializing, 374 programming structured programming, 97-99 returning pointers, 499-501 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to	gets() function, 228-232	perror() function, 519-520	
puts() function, 226-227 scanf() function, 232-235 P arithmetic operations, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, 232-237 scanf() functions, 190-193 head pointers, 397-398 incrementing, 198-200, 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 linked lists adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to		. •	returning pointers,
pointers, 190-193 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, 232-235 arithmetic operations, 202 arrays allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 char type, 372-375 declaring, 373 declaring, 373 agharates adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	puts() function, 226-227	pointer constants, 201	
P allocating memory, 372 arrays 264-266 initializing, 190, 261-262, 400 parameters char type, 372-375 adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 acceiving arguments, 102 example of, 372, parentheses (), 94 arrays of structures and, 264-266 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	scanf() function,	pointers, 190-193	•
parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing allocating memory, 372 arrays of structures and, 264-266 char type, 372-375 declaring, 373 declaring, 373 declaring, 373 adding elements to beginning of lists, 398-399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	232-235	•	<u> </u>
parameters functions scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 receiving arguments, 102 parentheses (), 94 functions, passing char type, 372-375 declaring, 373 declaring, 373 398-399 adding elements to adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to empty links, 399 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to end of lists, 400-401 adding elements to	P	•	<u> </u>
functions char type, 372-375 beginning of lists, 398-399 declaring, 373 398-399 element storage, adding elements to empty links, 399 receiving arguments, 102 example of, 372, adding elements to end parentheses (), 94 375-381, 386 of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to		-	
declaring, 373 398-399 scope of, 288 writing, 100-103 element storage, adding elements to empty links, 399 receiving arguments, 102 example of, 372, adding elements to end parentheses (), 94 375-381, 386 of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to	•	char type, 372-375	
writing, 100-103 element storage, 195-198 adding elements to empty links, 399 receiving arguments, 102 example of, 372, parentheses (), 94 375-381, 386 of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to		declaring, 373	
parentheses (), 94 375-381, 386 of lists, 400-401 functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to		3 ,	<u> </u>
functions, passing initializing, 374 adding elements to			<u> </u>
	functions, passing	,	adding elements to

adding elements to	uninitialized, 202-203, 400	print_report() function, 150
middle of lists, 401-402	variables, declaring, 497 void, 492-496, 521, 538	printf() function, 10, 27, 105, 201, 227-228, 274, 350,
adding links, 398	portability, 6	355-357, 571
deleting elements from	postfix mode, 63	arguments, 154
lists, 402-403, 414	pow() function, 508	calling, 154
deleting links, 398 elements, 397	precedence	conversion characters, 351-352
example of, 403-406	brackets ([]), 368	conversion specifiers,
head pointers, 397	indirection operator (*),	151-153
implementing, 406-414	386	escape sequences,
links, 397	logical operators, 82-84	147-151, 353-354
lists of characters,	operators, 67-69, 86-87	field-width specifier, 353
407-414	relational operators, 79-80	flags, 353
loops, 406	subexpressions, 69	format strings, 146
modifying links, 398 nodes, 397	precision modifiers, scanf() function, 340-341	functions with variable numbers of arguments,
structures, 396	precision specifier, printf()	496
·	function, 352	I modifier, 352
types of, 396	precision variables, 42	II specifier, 352
listing, 191-192	predefined functions, 10	precision specifier, 352
malloc() function, 221	predefined macros, 576	printf() statements, 27, 177
memory addresses, 188	predefined streams, 327-328	printing
multidimensional arrays, 363-365, 368, 371	prefix mode, 63	extended ASCII characters listing, 216-217
determining size of, 366	preprocessor	multidimensional array
pointer arithmetic, 367	#define directive, 574	elements, 368
naming, 188	function macros, 568-572	processor registers, 289
pointer arithmetic, 198-199	macros versus functions,	program control statements,
pointers to functions	571-572	71-77
calling different functions, 389-390	substitution macros, 567-568, 572	Program Development Cycle, 8-12
controlling sort order,	#elif directive, 573	program statements, 26
393-395	#else directive, 573	printf(), 27
declaring, 386, 396	#endif directive, 573	return, 27
initializing, 387-395	#if directive, 573	scanf(), 27
passing pointers as, 391-392	#if#endif directive, 573-575	programming
strings, 219-220, 259		device independent programming, 326
structures, 261	#include directive, 572	modular programming,
creating pointers to,	#undef directive, 576	562-563
262-263	directives	advantages of, 560
members, 259-260	checks, 575-576	external variables,
to functions, initializing, 396	defining, 567 header files, multiple	565-566 header files, 561, 565
typecasts and, 538	inclusions of, 575	1100001 11100, 001, 000
.,,		

main modules, 560-	putchar() function, 333,	rename() function, 446-447
561, 565	347-349, 430	renaming files, 446-447
secondary modules, 560-561, 564	puts() function, 108, 226-227, 349-350	reserved keywords list, 589-591
steps of, 8	calling, 155	reserved words, 7
structured programming	escape sequences, 155	restrict, 590
advantages, 97	listing, 227	return keyword, 106, 590
bugs, 97 functions, entries/exits,	•	return statements, 27, 94-96, 106
108	Q	return type functions, writing,
hierarchical structure, 98	qsort() function, 523-529	100 returning values, writing
menus, 99	quotation marks (""), format strings, 146	functions, 106-108
planning, 97-99	strings, 140	rewind() function, 437-439,
tasks and subtasks, 98	_	445
top-down approach, 99	R	Ritchie, Dennis, 6
programs	radians trigonomatria	running programs, 29
arrays, for statements, 120	radians, trigonometric functions, 506	
C, creating programs via, 8	RAM (Random Access Memory)	S
executing	addresses, 38, 188	
controlling, 121 do…while loops,	memory storage space, allocating, 539	scanf() function, 27, 156-159, 232-235, 345-347
136-142	rand() function, 182	arguments, 160-161,
dowhile statements,	random.c, 180-182	338-339
140	random arrays, 182	conversion specifiers, 339-340
for statements, 121-130	random file access, 436-442	handling extra characters,
loops, nesting, 141-142	reading	341-343
while statements, 130- 136	data in disk files, 423	listing, 234
exiting, 320	strings, 228	precision modifiers,
for statements, 120	gets() function, 228-232	340-341
Hello World, 13	scanf() function,	scanf() statements, 27, 177
compilation errors,	232-235	scope
15-17	realloc() function, allocating memory, 541-543	local scope, function parameters, 288
compiling hello.c, 14-15	recursion, calling functions,	variables, 280-282
linker errors, 17	112-114	errors, 281
terminating, exit() function, 320-321	reference, passing by, 489-492	external variables, 283
promoting types in expressions, 534-535	register keyword, 289-290, 590	screen output character output functions
prototype functions, 94-96,	register variables, 289-290	fputc() function, 349
109	relational operators, 70-71	putc() function, 349
ptr arguments, 541	evaluating, 77-79	putchar(), 347-349
putc() function, 349, 430	precedence, 79-80	formatted output functions
	remove() function, 445-446	fprintf(), 350-352

fprintf() function,	signed decimal integer,	src arguments
357-358	displaying, 151	memcpy() function, 546
printf() function, 350-357	simple expressions, 60	memmove() function, 546
	simplestruct.c, 244-245	stacks, 488
string output functions fputs(), 349	sin() function, 506	standard input/output files. See predefined streams
puts(), 349-350	single-dimensional arrays, 169-173	•
searching	sinh() function, 507	statements, 58
functions, bsearch(),	size arguments, 431-432	#define, 178
521-529	size_t data type, 456	assignment, 231
strings	sizeof() operators, 521-522,	nesting, 61
first occurrence of	590	operator precedence, 67
characters, 468-469	sleep() function, 311	blocks, 59-60, 72, 573
first occurrence of characters in second	sorting	branching, goto statements, 304-306
strings, 470-471	arrays of pointers, 376	break, 300-302, 313-314
first occurrence of	functions, qsort(), 523-529	case, switch statements,
strings within strings,	pointers to functions,	319-320
473-474	controlling sort order, 393-395	compound, 59-60
last occurrence of characters, 470	source code	continue, 302-304
nonmatching characters,	accuracy, 30	dowhile loops, 140
471-472	compiling, 9-11	for statements
strchr() function,	creating, 9	arrays, 120
468-469	<u>-</u>	executing programs,
strcspn() function,	editors, 9	121-126
470-471	external variables, scope, 283	nesting, 127-130
strpbrk() function, 473	hello.c, 14	structure, 121
strrchr() function, 470	linking, 10	functions, 95, 106
strspn() function,	modular programming,	goto, 304-306
471-472	562-563	if statements, 71-77, 111
strstr() function, 473-474	advantages of, 560	iteration, 114
secondary modules, 560-561,	external variables,	label, 306
564	565-566	nested statements
seconds.c, 66	header files, 561, 565	assignment statements, 61
semicolon (;), 130	main modules, 560-561, 565	for statements, 127-130
function headers, 101	secondary modules,	if statements, 77
function prototypes, writing, 109	560-561, 564	while, 134-136
sequences, trigraph, 161	white space, 58	null, 59
sequential file access, 436-442	source file, naming, 9	printf(), 177
shift operators, 548-550	spaghetti code, 306	program control, if
•	sqr() function, 561	statements, 71-72
short, 590	sqrt() function, 507	return, 94-96, 106
short type pointers, 193	square() function, 110	scanf(), 177
signed, 590		

switch, 312	static memory allocation, 538	predefined streams, 327-328
break statements and, 302, 313-314	bitwise operators	stdaux, 327
case statements,	bit fields, 552-554	stderr, 327, 357-358
319-320	complement operator	stdin, 327
exit() function, 318	(~), 552	stdout, 327
expressions, 311	logical operators,	stdorn, 327
menu systems,	550-551	text streams, 327, 418
executing, 314-317	shift operators, 548-550	types of, 327
while statements, 131-133	strcat() function, 461-462	strftime() function, 511-515
nesting, 134-136	strchr() function, 468-469	stringizing operator (#),
structure, 130	strcmp() function, 464-466	569-571
white space, 58-59	strcpy() function, 254, 380,	strings
static keyword, 286, 289, 590	457-459	arguments, functions with
static memory allocation, 220-221, 538	strcspn function, 470-471 streams	variable numbers of arguments, 496
static variables	binary, 418	arrays of
automatic versus, 285-288	binary streams, 327	characters, 218-219
external static, 289	defining, 326	pointers, 372
stdarg.h header file, functions	disk files, 418	bsearch() function, 526-529
with variable numbers of arguments, 496	character input, 428-429	character test functions, 477-481
stdaux streams, 327	character output, 423,	comparing
stderr streams, 327, 357-358	430-431	entire strings, 464-466
stdin streams, 327	closing files, 435-436	partial strings, 466-468
stdio.h header, 150, 227	detecting EOF, 443-444	strcat() function, 464
stdlib.h header	direct I/O, 431-434	strcmp() function,
bsearch() function, 521	direct output, 423	464-466
multidimensional arrays, 182	file buffering, 435-436	strncmp() function, 466-468
stdout streams, 327	formatted input, 427-428	concatenating
stdout streams, 327	formatted output,	strcat() function,
storage classes (variables),	423-426	461-462
291	opening, 419-423	strncat() function,
storage space (memory), 38	random file access,	462-464
allocating	436-442	converting to numbers
calloc() function, 540-541	reading/writing data, 423	double type numeric values, 476-477
dynamic memory allocation, 538	sequential file access, 436-442	floating point numeric values, 476
freeing via free()	equivalence of streams,	integers, 475
function, 543-545	329	long longs, 476
malloc() function, 539	files, defining, 326	longs, 475
realloc() function, 541-543	input/output functions, 328-329	

copying	nonmatching characters,	structures
strcpy() function, 457-459	471-472 strchr() function,	arrays of structures, 252-256
strncpy() function,	468-469	initializing, 257-258
459-460	strcspn() function, 470-471	pointers and, 264-266
defining, 213, 259	strpbrk() function, 473	arrays within structures,
displaying	strpbrk() function, 473	250-252
printf() function, 227-228	· ·	bit fields, 552-554
puts() function, 226-227	strspn() function, 471-472	complex structures
filenames, 420	strstr() function,	arrays within structures, 250-252
functions with variable numbers of arguments,	473-474 times, converting to strings, 511	structures within structures, 246-249
496	uppercase/lowercase	declaring, 242-245
length, determining, 456-457	characters, ANSI support	defining, 241-243
literal, 219	for, 481-483	FILE, 420
lowercase/uppercase	white space, 58	functions, passing
characters, ANSI support	strlen() function, 379, 456-457	structures as arguments to, 267-268
for, 481-483	strncat() function, 462-464	initializing, 256-258
memory allocation, 221	strncmp() function, 466-468	instances, defining, 245
at compilation, 220	strncpy() function, 459-460	linked lists, 396
malloc() function,	strpbrk() function, 473	members, 242
222-226	strrchr() function, 470	accessing, 243-244
output functions	strspn() function, 471-472	pointers as, 259-261
fputs(), 349	strstr() function, 473-474	pointers as, 259-261
puts(), 349-350	struct keyword, 242, 245-246,	arrays of structures and
pointers to, 219-220	590	264-266
qsort() function, 526-529	structure member operator (.). See dot operator (.)	as structure members,
reading, 232	• (/	259-261
gets() function, 228-231	structure point operator. See indirect membership operator	to structures, 261-263
scanf() function, 233-235	(->)	struct keyword, 245-246
searching	structured programming. See also modular programming	structures within structures 246-249
first occurrence of characters, 468-469	advantages, 97	synonyms, creating for structures, 274-275
first occurrence of	arrays of pointers, 375	tags, 242
characters in second	bugs, 97	tm, 509-511
strings, 470-471	functions, entries/exits, 108	typedef keyword, 274-275
first occurrence of strings within strings, 473-474	hierarchical structure, 98 menus, 99	subexpressions, precedence,
last occurrence of	planning, 97-99	subscripts, 120
characters, 470	tasks/subtasks, 98	arrays, 169, 203
·	top-down approach, 99	multidimensional arrays,
		173

ternary operator, 85

substitution macros, 567-568, 572	test-mode streams, 327	true/false values (logical operators), 81-82
subtasks/tasks, structured programming, 98	literal, 146 text-mode files	two-dimensional arrays, 173-176, 364
subtraction operator (-), 65		type conversions
switch statements, 312, 590	character input, 428-429	automatic
break statements and, 302, 313-314	character output, 423, 430-431	conversion by assignment, 535-536
case statements, 319-320	CR-LF, 418	type promotion in
exit() function, 318	detecting EOF, 443-444	expressions, 534-535
expressions, 311	formatted input, 427-428	explicit conversions via typecasts, 536
menu systems, executing, 314-317	formatted output,	arithmetic expressions, 536-537
symbolic character constants, 215	423-426	pointers, 538
symbolic constants, 48, 60	streams, 327, 418	type names. See tags
conditional compilation,	third() function, 110	typecasts
573	Thompson, Ken, 6	arithmetic expressions,
creating, 567-568, 572	time functions, 509	536-537
declaring arrays, 174	asctime(), 511, 515	explicit type conversions
#define directive, 49	clock(), 513-515	arithmetic expressions,
defining, 49	ctime(), 511	536-537
defining with const	difftime(), 513-515	pointers, 538
keyword, 50-52	localtime(), 510	void pointers, 493
errno.h header file, 518	mktime(), 511	typedef keyword, 590
external variables, 283	strftime(), 511-515	structures, 274-275
synonyms, creating for	time(), 510, 515	variables, 45
structures, 274-275	usage examples, 513-515	typographical errors, 30
syntax (functions), calling,	tm structures, 509-511	
95-96	tmpnam() function, 450-452	U
functions	tolower() macro, 481-483	
calling, 95-96	top-down approach, structured programming, 99	unary.c, 63-64
T	toupper() macro, 481-483	unary increment operator (++), 62-65, 264
	trigonometric functions	unary operator (-), 62-65
tags, 242	acos(), 506	unbuffered character input
tan() function, 506	asin(), 506	functions, 330
tanh() function, 507	atan(), 506 atan2(), 506	unconditional jumps. See branching statements
tasks and subtasks, structured programming, 98	cos(), 506	ungetc() function, 335, 480
temporary files, 450-452	sin(), 506	uninitialized pointers, 202-203,
terminating null character,	tan(), 506	400 union keyword, 271-274, 590
strncat() function, 462	trigraph sequences, 161	
terminating programs, 320-321	ANSI standards, 162	
ternary operator 85		

codes, 162

unions	displaying with printf()	precision, 42
accessing members, 271	function, 151	register, 289-290
declaring, 269	external, 282	scope, 280-282
defining, 268-269	declaring, 283	errors, 281
initializing, 269	external static, 289	external variables, 283
members, accessing, 269-271	extern keyword, 283-285	static variables automatic variables
union keyword, 271-274	modular independence, 283	versus, 285-288
UNIX	modular programming,	external static variables, 289
memory allocation, 539	565-566	storage classes, choosing
source code editors, 9	scope, 283	between, 291
strings, comparing, 466	symbolic constants, 283	structures
unsigned decimal integer, 151, 590	when to use, 283	accessing members,
uppercase/lowercase	external static, 289	243-244
characters, ANSI support for,	floating, 537	arrays of, 255
481-483	floating-point, 41	arrays of structures,
user-defined functions, 24, 27, 91-93	global. See external variables	252-258, 264-266 arrays within structures,
usleep() function, 311	in functions, 94	250-252
	initializing, 45-46	complex structures, 246-252
V	integer, 41	
•	lifetime, 280	declaring, 242-245
va arg() macro, 497	local, 94	defining, 241-245
va end() macro, 497-499	blocks and, 291-293	initializing, 256-258
va list macro, 497	creating, 285	members of, 242
va start() macro, 497-499	main function, 290-291	passing as arguments to functions, 267-268
values	static variables versus	pointers and arrays of structures, 264-266
passing by, 488-491	automatic variables, 285-288	
returning, writing functions, 106-108	writing functions, 103-	pointers as structure members, 259-261
variables, 26, 39, 51-52	memory addresses, 188	pointers, creating to
accessibility, 280-281	naming, 39-40	structures, 261-263
approximate range, 42	numeric, 40-44	struct keyword, 245-246
arguments, passing variables as, 488	floating-point, 41	structures within structures, 246-249
arrays, 168	integer, 41	tags, 242
automatic variables versus static variables, 285-288	register keyword, 290 void pointers, 492	typedef keyword, 45, 274-275
char data type, 214	pointers, 191-192	unions. See also arguments
character variables,	creating, 188-189	accessing members,
215-218	data types, 193-194	269-271
counter variables, 124	declaring, 189-190, 497	declaring, 269
declaring, 44	initializing, 190	defining, 268-269
	= '	initializing, 269

union keyword, 271-274 visibility, 280 visibility, variables, 280 void pointers, 492-496, 521, 538, 590 void return type, 112 volatile, 590

X - Y - Z

XOR operator (^), 550-551

W

while loops, 132, 150, 591 break statement, 300-302 continue statement, 302-304 copying files, 450 detecting EOF, 444 infinite loops, 307-310 linked lists, 412 partial string comparisons, 468 random file access, 442 strings, converting to double type numeric values, 477 while statements, 131-133 nesting, 134-136 structure, 130 white space, 58-59, 156 Windows, source code editors, 9 writing data to disk files, 423 functions arguments, 100-103 body, 103-108 headers, 100-103 local variables, 103-105 names, 100 parameters, 100-103 prototypes, 109 returning values, 106-108 return types, 100 statements, 106