

A Guide for Transitioning from Python to C++

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C++ is a very different language from Python, but some simple principles can help guide you through the changes! Let's have a look.

Semicolons, Parentheses, and Braces? Oh my!

Curly Braces {}

- Curly braces ({}) are almost exactly equivalent to Python indentation.
- Use them for **if/else/while** statements, function definitions

```
void function(int a, string b) {  
    if (a == 1) {  
        cout << b << endl;  
    }  
}
```

- Like in Python, we usually indent inside brackets.

Conditions

- An **if/else** statement or **while** loop requires **parentheses** around the condition:

```
if (a == 1) {  
    cout << b << endl;  
}
```

- **And** is represented by **&&**, **or** is represented by **||**, and negation is represented by **!**.

```
if ((a == 3 && b == 2) || c != 1) {  
    cout << "either a equals 3 and b equals 2 or c does not equal 1";  
}
```

- Elif is replaced by **else if**. (Actually, **elif** is a shortened version of **else if**.)

```
if (a == 1) {  
    cout << "One" << endl;  
} else if (a == 2) {  
    cout << "Two" << endl;  
}
```

Semicolons

- You need a semicolon at the end of every **non-control statement**.

- Setting a variable:

```
int i = 0;
```

- Calling a function
doSomething(a, b);
- **Do not** put a semicolon at the end of a **control statement**.
 - If and else:


```
if (i == 1) { // no semicolon here!
    cout << "Test" << endl;
} else {
    cout << "else" << endl;
}
```
 - While statements:


```
while (a == 1) {
    cout << a << endl;
}
```
- **Do not** put a semicolon at the end of a statement beginning with a #.
#include "strlib.h"

Types

C++ is a **typed** language, which means that you sometimes need to explicitly say what type something is.

- A type is a fundamental kind of value. Examples include int, string, char (single character, not in Python), double (equivalent of Python float)
- You must explicitly state the type when declaring a variable, but not while using it after that.

```
int i = 0;
i = i + 2; // no type needed here
```

- Function **parameters** must also have types; also, every function must include a **return type**. If the function doesn't return anything, it has return type **void**. However, you don't have to include the types when calling the function.

```
int function(int a, string b) {
    return a + 2;
}

void function2(int a, string b) {
    cout << b << a + 2 << endl;
}

function(3, "test");
```

Syntax Differences

Here are some common things that differ from C++ to Python.

- **Single-line comments** are made using `//`. **Multi-line comments** are made using `/*` to start and `*/` to end.

```
/* This function takes in an integer and a string.
```

```
 * It returns the value of the integer plus 2.
```

```
 */
```

```
int function(int a, string b) {  
    return a + 2; // does the adding  
}
```

- To loop through a range of values, instead of using `range` as in Python, you define a variable and increment it through a `for` loop:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {  
    cout << i << " ";  
} // prints out 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

- To loop through a collection (like a list in Python), you use the `for-each` syntax:

```
for (int i : numbers) {  
    cout << i << " ";  
} // prints out the contents of numbers
```

- To print out something, use `cout <<` followed by what you want to print (and `<< endl` if you want a new line). You can directly pass in variables through this, but you must separate different values with `<<`.

```
cout << "hello world" << endl;  
string name = "Mary";  
int age = 20;  
cout << "My name is " << name << " and my age is " << age << endl;
```

- The `++` operator is equivalent to `+= 1` (and similarly for `--`):

```
int i = 3;  
i++;  
cout << i << endl; // prints out "4"
```

- If you call a function before its definition in your code, your C++ compiler will think it doesn't exist. Use **forward declarations** (aka function prototypes) at the beginning of your code to let it know that these functions exist in your code.

```
void function2(int a, string b);  
int function(int a, string b) {  
    function2(a, b); // now you can call this before writing  
    return a + 2;    // function2
```

```

}
void function2(int a, string b) {
    cout << b << a + 2 << endl;
}

```

Important Functions

A lot of important functions that you might use in Python aren't available in C++ by default. Instead, you have to `#include` the appropriate library at the top of your file. Here are some examples:

- **stringSplit** splits a string by a delimiter (like Python `.split()`)
`#include "strlib.h" // put this at the top of your file!`
`string data = "a,b,c";`
`Vector<string> components = stringSplit(data, ",");`
- **toLowerCase** converts a string to its lowercase version (see also `toUpperCase`)
[from "strlib.h"]:
`string data = "ABC";`
`cout << toLowerCase(data) << endl; // prints abc`
- **getline** gets a string from the user (see also `getInteger`) [from "simpio.h"]:
`string data = getline("Please enter some text: ");`
- **getYesOrNo** gets a boolean from the user [from "simpio.h"]:
`bool yesOrNo = getYesOrNo("Yes or no? ");`
- **startsWith(str, prefix)** checks whether a string begins with the prefix (see also `endsWith`) [from "strlib.h"].
- **stringToInteger(str)** and **integerToString(int)** do the appropriate conversions, as do **stringToReal(str)** and **stringToReal(d)** [from "strlib.h"].
- **randomInteger(low, high)** returns a random integer between low and high, inclusive [from "random.h"].
- **str.find(b)** checks if the character or string b is found in str and returns its index if it's found, or `string::npos` otherwise.
`string a = "pineapple"`
`cout << a.find("apple") << endl; // prints 4`
`if (a.find('p') != string::npos) { // equivalent of 'if 'p' in a'`
 `cout << "p is in string a!" << endl;`
`}`

To view more about Stanford libraries, check out the documentation:

https://web.stanford.edu/dept/cs_edu/cppdoc/