# Standard I/O Lesson Outline

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Standard I/O Lesson

Standard Input & Standard Output

- **Standard input** is when a user types at the keyboard. It is sometimes shortened to *stdin*, pronounced “standard in.”

- **Standard output** is when the computer outputs to the terminal screen. It is sometimes shortened to *stdout*, pronounced “standard out.”

In C:

- a `scanf` statement always inputs from *stdin*, and
- a `printf` statement always outputs to *stdout*. 
Character String Literal Constant

A character string literal constant is a sequence of characters delimited by a double quote at the beginning and a double quote at the end.

A character string literal constant is also known as a character string literal or a string literal for short.

For example, in this printf statement:

```c
printf("This is a printf.\n");
```

the following is a string literal:

"This is a printf.\n"

The output of this printf statement is:

This is a printf.

followed by a newline, also known as a carriage return.
String Literal Cannot Use Multiple Lines

A character string literal constant can only use one line; that is, both of its delimiters **MUST** be on the same line of source code text.

So, this is **CORRECT**:

```c
printf("This string literal takes one line");
printf(" and so does this string literal.\n");
```

And this is **WRONG WRONG WRONG WRONG**:

```c
printf("This string literal takes more than one line so it's WRONG!\n");
```

Some compilers will accept this but won’t be happy; other compilers will simply reject it.

Regardless, if this appears in a program in CS1313, **YOU WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED!**
Multi-line String Literal Example

% cat bad_string_literal.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main ()
{
    /* main */
    printf("This string literal takes
        more than one line so it's WRONG!\n");
} /* main */

% gcc -o bad_string_literal bad_string_literal.c

gcc bad_string_literal.c
bad_string_literal.c: In function `main':
bad_string_literal.c:5: error: missing terminating " character
bad_string_literal.c:6: error: `more' undeclared (first use in this function)
bad_string_literal.c:6: error: (Each undeclared identifier is reported only once
bad_string_literal.c:6: error: for each function it appears in.)
bad_string_literal.c:6: error: expected ')' before `than'
bad_string_literal.c:6: error: expected `;' character
bad_string_literal.c:7: error: expected `;' before `}' token
Output via `printf`

In C, we output to standard output using a `printf` statement:

```c
printf("This will be output to stdout.\n");
```

A `printf` statement can output a string literal, but it can also output the value of a variable, a literal constant or a named constant:

```c
printf("%d", number_of_students);
```

The statement above outputs to `stdout` (the terminal screen) the value of a variable named `number_of_students` of type `int` (presumably declared previously in the program that contains this `printf` statement).

The string literal in a `printf` statement is known as a `format string`. 
Newline

In C, you can place a `newline`, also known as a `carriage return`, inside a string literal using:

```
\n
```

If a newline appears inside a string literal in the `source code`, then when the string literal is output, the newline causes the `output` to move to a new line.

https://i.pinimg.com/originals/29/8f/3e/298f3eacdb07bf9f223645236ef47e1.gif
Newline Example

% cat newline.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main ()
{
    /* main */
    printf("Howdy do!\n");
    printf("This string literal contains a newline in the\nmiddle ");
    printf("but this string literal contains a newline at the end.\n");
    printf("So there!\n");
}
/* main */

% gcc -o newline newline.c
% newline
Howdy do!
This string literal contains a newline in the
middle but this string literal contains a newline at the end.
So there!

Note: In general, it’s better programming practice to put newlines only at the end of your string literals, not in the middle, because in the middle they can be difficult for programmers (for example, graders) to see.
Placeholders

\texttt{printf("\%d", number\_of\_students);} \\

The statement above:
- outputs to standard output (\texttt{stdout})
- the value of the variable named \texttt{number\_of\_students}
- which is of type \texttt{int}
- (declared previously in the program that contains this \texttt{printf} statement).

The \texttt{\%d} is known as a \textit{placeholder}:
  it holds the place of the value of the variable that we actually want to output.

Another name for a placeholder is a \textit{format specifier}, \textit{but we’ll typically say placeholder in CS1313}. 

Placeholders for Various Data Types

- **int:** `%d`
  
  printf("%d", number_of_students);

- **float:** `%f`
  
  printf("%f", pi);

- **char:** `%c`
  
  printf("%c", middle_initial);
We now know that we can output a string literal:

\[ \text{printf("This will be output to stdout."\n");} \]

We also know that we can output the value of a variable:

\[ \text{printf("\%d", number_of_students);} \]

Not surprisingly, we can **mix and match** the two:

\[ \text{printf(" on your \%d income."\n", tax_year);} \]

We can even mix and match while outputting the values of multiple variables of various data types:

\[ \text{printf("The \%d federal income tax on \$\%f\n", tax_year, income);} \]
Mixing Literal Text and Variables’ Values #2

In a `printf` statement’s **format specifier**, we can mix and match literal text and variables’ values while outputting the values of multiple variables of various data types:

```c
printf("The %d federal income tax on $%f
", tax_year, income);
```

This statement means:
- Output to `stdout` (the terminal screen)
- the literal text "The ", and then
- the value of the `int` variable named `tax_year`, and then
- the literal text " federal income tax on $", and then
- the value of the `float` variable named `income`, and then
- a newline.
Placeholder & Variable in Same Statement

When you use a placeholder inside the string literal of a `printf` statement, the variable whose place is being held by the placeholder **MUST** be in the same `printf` statement as the placeholder.

Putting the placeholder in one `printf` statement and the variable in a different `printf` statement is **BAD BAD BAD**!

/* These printfs are **GOOD GOOD GOOD!** */
printf("f1=%f, ", f1);
printf("i1=%d, **GOOD!\n", i1);
/* These printfs are **BAD  BAD BAD**! */
printf("**BAD! f2=%f, i2=%d, **");
printf("**BAD!\n", f2, i2);

**NOTE:** The same rule applies to `scanf` statements (coming up).
Placeholder/Variable Same Statement: Example

% cat placeholder.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main ()
{ /* main */
    float f1, f2;
    int   i1, i2;

    f1 = 3.75;
    f2 = 5.25;
    i1 = 6;
    i2 = 8;
    /* These printfs are GOOD GOOD GOOD! */
    printf("f1=%f, ", f1);
    printf("i1=%d, GOOD!\n", i1);
    /* These printfs are BAD  BAD  BAD!  */
    printf("BAD! f2=%f, i2=%d, ");
    printf("BAD!\n", f2, i2);
    /* This printf is GOOD GOOD GOOD! */
    printf("f2=%f, i2=%d, GOOD!\n", f2, i2);
} /* main */

% gcc -o placeholder placeholder.c
% placeholder
f1=3.750000, i1=6, GOOD!
BAD! f2=3.750000, i2=134513662, BAD!
f2=5.250000, i2=8, GOOD!
Input via `scanf`

The `printf` statement outputs to `stdout` (the terminal screen).

Likewise, the `scanf` statement inputs from `stdin` (a user typing at the keyboard).

The `scanf` statement has a somewhat strange syntax:

```
scanf("%d", &height_in_cm);
```

This statement says:

- input from `stdin` (a user typing at the keyboard)
- an `int` value
- and place that `int` value into the memory location associated with the `int` variable named `height_in_cm`.
Input via `scanf`: Ampersand Before Variable

The `scanf` statement has a somewhat strange syntax:

```c
scanf("%d", &height_in_cm);
```

Notice the **ampersand** `&` before the name of the variable that you’re inputting into.

For now, you must simply **ACCEPT THIS ON FAITH**.

Time permitting, toward the end of the semester we’ll learn about what the ampersand means.
Input via scanf Example

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main ()
{ /* main */
    int height_in_cm;

    printf("What's my height in centimeters?\n");
    scanf("%d", &height_in_cm);
    printf("My height is %d cm.\n", height_in_cm);
} /* main */
```

```
% gcc -o read_variable read_variable.c
% read_variable
What's my height in centimeters?
160
My height is 160 cm.
```
Input via `scanf` Example’s Flowchart

```c
printf("What's my height in centimeters?\n");
scanf("%d", &height_in_cm);
printf("My height is %d cm.\n", height_in_cm);
```

Start

- Prompt for height in cm.
- Input height in cm.
- Output height in cm.

End

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Reading Multiple Variables with a Single `scanf`

C allows inputting multiple variables per `scanf` statement.

At runtime, when the user types in the input values, they can separate the individual input values

- by blank spaces, and/or
- by tabs, and/or
- by carriage returns (newlines).

Blank spaces, tabs and carriage returns, as a group, are known as **white space**.
#include <stdio.h>

int main ()
{ /* main */
    float CS1313_average_height_in_m;
    int number_of_silly_people, number_of_nonsilly_people;
    char Henrys_middle_initial;

    printf("I'm going to guess the answers to questions\n");
    printf("I've already asked!\n");
    printf("In CS1313, how many silly people are there,\n");
    printf("and how many non-silly people are there?\n");
    scanf("%d %d", &number_of_silly_people,
           &number_of_nonsilly_people);
    printf("What is the average height in m in CS1313,\n");
    printf("and what is Henry's middle initial?\n");
    scanf("%f %c", &CS1313_average_height_in_m, &Henrys_middle_initial);
    printf("In CS1313, there are %d silly people\n", number_of_silly_people);
    printf("and %d non-silly people.\n", number_of_nonsilly_people);
    printf("In CS1313, the average height is %f m.\n", CS1313_average_height_in_m);
    printf("Henry's middle initial is %c.\n", Henrys_middle_initial);
} /* main */
Multiple Variables per `scanf` Example #2

% gcc -o read_list read_list.c
% read_list

In CS1313, how many silly people are there, and how many non-silly people are there?

20 120

What is the average height in m in CS1313, and what is Henry's middle initial?

1.75

J

In CS1313, there are 20 silly people and 120 non-silly people. In CS1313, the average height is 1.750000 m. Henry's middle initial is J.
printf vs scanf

**printf**
- outputs
- to stdout
- the string literal **CAN** (and typically does) contain literal text as well as placeholders
- the string literal typically **DOES** end with a newline (but that’s **NOT** required)
- variable names after the string literal **CANNOT** be preceded by &

**scanf**
- inputs
- from stdin
- the string literal **CANNOT** contain literal text – **EXCEPT**, if there are multiple placeholders, then between each adjacent pair of placeholders there **MUST** be a **SINGLE BLANK SPACE** (**REQUIRED**)
- the string literal **CANNOT** contain a newline
- variable names after the string literal **MUST** be preceded by &
Programming Exercise

Create a program that:

1. Greets the user.
2. Prompts the user for their age in years.
3. Inputs the user’s age in years.
4. Outputs the user’s age in years.

Begin by drawing a flowchart, and then write the program.

The program does not have to have comments.
The data type for the age variable must be appropriate.