

Beginning C++ Programming

Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to Beginning C++ Programming! Thank you so much for supporting this course. I hope you enjoy learning C++ as much as I've enjoyed creating this course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on Udemy or post your questions in the Q/A section of the course.

Have fun learning C++ and keep coding!
Best regards,
Frank Mitropoulos

Q1. How can I ask a question?

The course has a Q/A section where you can post and respond to questions.

Please browse through the Q/A section and through this document before you post a question. In many cases, your question has already been asked and answered and you can immediately get a resolution. Also, many course videos have a **Resources** section where I will post further information about that video as needed.

I will regularly monitor the Q/A section of the course. I also encourage students to help one another out. Please don't be shy about responding to each other's questions. Let's establish a powerful, active, and courteous C++ learning community!

Also, please feel free to send me a message directly.

Q2. I think I found a typo in the slides. Should I report the error?

Please check the resources section for each video. I post any **errata** to the Resources section as PDF files. Chances are that typo has already been reported and I added it to the errata. If you find a typo and there is no errata for that video, please let me know.

Q3. Where is the source code for the course?

The source code for each section is provided as a compressed ZIP files in the last section of the course.

Q4. I tried to download MinGW for Windows, but the website looks different from the one in the videos. I don't see a download button.

Websites change over time. Please check the resources section for this video. I posted the direct link to the MinGW installer there.

Q5. When I download CodeLite, it is downloaded with a .7z file extension. What is that? What do I do now?

Recent versions of CodeLite are provided as compressed files using 7z compression. These are very similar to the familiar ZIP files we are used to working with. In order to install CodeLite you must decompress the .7z file which will produce the .exe installer that you can then run.

You can use a program like www.7-zip.com, WinZIP, or WinRAR with .7z files. Install one of these programs, then right-click on the .7z file that you downloaded and select the extract option.

Q6. I think my installation isn't correct. I'm getting strange messages when building my project.

Getting and fixing compiler errors is part of programming. However, if you think your errors are configuration-related, please look through the Q/A section of the course to see if anyone else has seen the same error. If so, you will probably also find a solution in the Q/A. If not, please post the error to the Q/A section and we'll do our best to help.

Q7. Why does CodeLite display a "Time elapsed" message when I run my project? I don't see that message displayed in the course videos. Is something wrong with my installation?

No, nothing is wrong with your installation. On some platforms, CodeLite displays an informational message about how long the program took to execute. This was added to versions of CodeLite after I recorded many of the course videos.

This timing information can be very useful when debugging our code. This message only displays when you run your program from CodeLite. If you run your executable from the command-line it will not display this informational message.

Q8. I tried to run some of the Coding Challenges in the IDE, but I'm getting strange errors. What I am I doing wrong?

The Coding Exercises are designed to be done in the Udemy Browser Testing Environment. Please do the Coding Exercises in the browser environment. In this environment, we can control and test your code with many test cases to be sure you are solving the problems correctly.

Also, please write your code ONLY in the areas that are marked for your code.

Q9. I think my virus scanning software is preventing my .exe files from running. What can I do?

Your virus scanning software may think that the .exe file that you build from your C++ project is a potential threat and not allow it to run. Most virus scanning programs have the ability to exclude files and directories/folders from being scanned. Please check the Q/A since there are several solutions posted. If you continue to have problems, please post to the Q/A and we will do our best to help.

Q10. Why does the course start out with such basic elements?

This is a **Beginning** C++ course that can be taken by anyone who wants to learn to program in C++. This includes students who have never programmed at all. If you are already familiar with C++ and programming, you might wish to jump ahead in the course curriculum.

As you progress through the later sections of the course, you will find many elements that you will usually only see in intermediate and advanced C++ courses.

Q11. If I'm new to C++ should I follow the curriculum, or can I jump around?

If you are new to programming or new to C++, I strongly encourage you to follow the curriculum. The curriculum was developed in a manner where concepts build upon previous concepts. Also, the examples and challenge exercises used in the videos are extended with new concepts as we go through the curriculum.

Q12. Which C++ standard should I use with my compiler?

This course uses the C++ 14 standard.

Q13. Why doesn't the course use the C++17 standard?

Where appropriate, I will mention any C++17 additions relevant to the existing topic being covered. C++14 was chosen since students would be using different compiler toolchains and some may not fully support C++17 yet.

If you want to select the C++17 standard, that's fine and it will work for the examples in this course depending on your compiler toolchain. Most of the C++17 changes do not affect core Modern C++ and are beyond the scope of this course.

Q14. Is CodeLite required?

No. You may use any Integrated Development Environment that you wish. You may also use the command-line. However, the source code is provided as CodeLite workspaces. Also, I can't possibly support all the IDEs available. I'll do my best to answer questions about other IDEs, but IDEs are very complex and have many options, so I may not be able to answer all IDE questions.

Q15. Do you recommend doing the challenges and quizzes?

Absolutely! The challenge exercises and quizzes are there so you can apply what you have learned in each section. Programming is best learned by doing. Practice, practice, practice!

Q16. I'm having trouble completing the challenges. Maybe programming isn't for me!

Many of the challenges are quite challenging. It is perfectly normal to feel frustrated. If you do, take a break and try again later. Remember, you are learning something new – it's takes time and practice to become comfortable with any new learned skill.

Q17. The videos use CodeLite 10, but I see there is a new version of CodeLite, should I use the new version?

Absolutely, please use the latest version of CodeLite. As new versions are released, bugs are fixed, and enhancements are made. In some cases there will be slight differences from the videos, but you should still be able to easily follow along.

For example, CodeLite 12.0 made changes to the Setup Wizard; it now asks for a Development Profile and then automatically sets up its plugins based on the selected profile. If you select, C/C++ development for the profile, you will be all set.

The MinGW compiler for Windows has also updated. Please use the latest version.