Compound Statement Encyclopedia Article

Compound Statement

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Compound Statement

A compound statement, also called a block, joins or brackets together a number of **declarations** and statements in order to make them into a single statement.

The compound statement is one of the most useful forms of statement. For example, in the **C programming** language with a conditional statement, the programming **syntax** dictates that only one statement is allowed in each branch. The use of a compound statement permits several statements to be invoked in a branch.

In specific programming terms, a compound statement is a sequence of statements enclosed in brackets. A generic example of the structure of a compound statement is {declaration-listopt statement-listopt}. A semi-colon is sometimes required before the closing bracket to further define the end of the statement.

Compound statement are used by programmers to form **code** into blocks so that variables that are placed (declared) within the block become local (unique) to that block.

The compound statement is a major feature in the **C++** programming language. Compound statements may be placed anywhere within regular statements and do not always require specific or special termination (e.g., with a semi-colon).