

## Tip 4: Don't bother explicitly returning anything from `main()`

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**level:** Hello, world.

**purpose:** Eliminate a line of unnecessary code from every program

Much of the tip-a-day series will be about making your life with C more like your life with quick-and-dirty scripting languages. Toward the goal of having fewer lines of code, let's shave a line off of every program you write.

Your program must have a `main` function, and it has to be of return type `int`, so you must absolutely have

```
int main(){ ... }
```

in your program.

You would think that you therefore have to have a `return` statement that indicates what integer gets returned. However, the C standard knows how infrequently this is used, and lets you not bother: "...reaching the `}` that terminates the main function returns a value of 0." (C standard §5.1.2.2.3) That is, if you don't write `return 0;` as the last line of your program, then it will be assumed.

Tip #1 showed you this version of `hello.c`, and you can now see how I got away with a `main` containing only one line of code:

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(){ printf("Hello, world.\n"); }
```

A few tips from now, we'll have cut this down to only one line.

**To do:**

Go through your programs and delete this line; see if it makes any difference.