

## Section 2.1 C++11

## enum class

those values. ~~Comparing values having distinct enumerated types, however, is deprecated and will typically elicit a warning.~~<sup>1</sup>

### Introducing the C++11 scoped enumerations

With the advent of modern C++, we now have a new, alternative enumeration construct, **enum class**, that simultaneously addresses strong type safety and lexical scoping, two distinct and often desirable properties:

```
enum class Name { e_Enumerator0 /* = value0 */, e_EnumeratorN /* = valueN */ };
// enum class enumerators are both type-safe and scoped
```

Another major distinction is that the default underlying type for a C-style **enum** is **implementation defined**, whereas, for an **enum class**, it is always an **int**. See *enum class and underlying type* on page 337 and *Potential Pitfalls — External use of opaque enumerators* on page 350.

Unlike unscoped enumerations, **enum class** does not leak its enumerators into the enclosing scope and can therefore help avoid collisions with other enumerations having like-named enumerators ~~defined~~ in the same scope:

```
enum VehicleUnscoped { e_CAR, e_TRAIN, e_PLANE };
struct VehicleScopedExplicitly { enum Enum { e_CAR, e_TRAIN, e_PLANE }; };
enum class VehicleScopedImplicitly { e_CAR, e_BOAT, e_PLANE };
```

Just like an unscoped **enum** type, an object of a scoped enumeration type is passed as a parameter to a function using the enumeration name itself:

```
void f1(VehicleUnscoped value); // unscoped enumeration passed by value
void f2(VehicleScopedImplicitly value); // scoped enumeration passed by value
```

If we use the approach for adding scope to enumerators that is described in *Drawbacks relating to weakly typed, C++03 enumerators* on page 333, the name of the enclosing **struct**

<sup>1</sup>As of C++20, attempting to compare two values of distinct classically enumerated types is a compile-time error. Note that explicitly converting at least one of them to an integral type — for example, using built-in unary plus — both makes our intentions clear and avoids warnings.

```
void test()
{
    if (e_A0 < 0) { /*...*/ } // OK, comparison with integral type
    if (1.0 != e_B1) { /*...*/ } // OK, comparison with arithmetic type
    if (A() <= e_A2) { /*...*/ } // OK, comparison with same enumerated type
    if (e_A0 == e_B0) { /*...*/ } // warning, deprecated (error as of C++20)
    if ( e_A0 == +e_B0) { /*...*/ } // OK, unary + converts to integral type
    if (+e_A0 == e_B0) { /*...*/ } // OK, " " " " " "
    if (+e_A0 == +e_B0) { /*...*/ } // OK, " " " " " "
}
```