

enum class

Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

```

class Car { /*...*/ };

struct Transmission
{
    enum Enum { e_MANUAL, e_AUTOMATIC }; // explicitly scoped
}; // classic enum
// (BAD IDEA)

int buildCar(Car* result, int numDoors, Transmission::Enum transmission)
{
    int status = Transmission::e_MANUAL; // Bug, accidental misuse

    for (int i = 0; i < transmission; ++i) // Bug, accidental misuse
    {
        attachDoor(i);
    }

    return status;
}

```

As shown in the example above, it is never correct for a value of type `Transmission::Enum` to be assigned to, compared with, or otherwise modified like an integer; hence, *any* such use would necessarily be considered a mistake and, ideally, flagged by the compiler as an error. The stronger typing provided by **enum class** achieves this goal:

```

class Car { /*...*/ };

enum class Transmission { e_MANUAL, e_AUTOMATIC }; // modern enum class (GOOD IDEA)

int buildCar(Car* result, int numDoors, Transmission transmission)
{
    int status = Transmission::e_MANUAL; // Error, incompatible types

    for (int i = 0; i < transmission; ++i) // Error, incompatible types
    {
        attachDoor(i);
    }

    return status;
}

```

By deliberately choosing the **enum class** in the example above over the *classic enum*, we automate the detection of many common kinds of accidental misuse. Secondly, we slightly simplify the interface of the function **signature** by removing the extra `::Enum` boilerplate qualifications required of an explicitly scoped, less-type-safe, classic **enum**, but see *Potential Pitfalls — Strong typing of an enum class can be counterproductive* on page 344.

In the event that the numeric value of a strongly typed enumerator is needed (e.g., for serialization), it can be extracted explicitly via a **static_cast**: