

## Re: newbie question

**Source:** [http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C\\_CPP/comp.lang.c/2005-02/3247.html](http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2005-02/3247.html)

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**From:** Emmanuel Delahaye (*emdel\_at\_YOURBRAnoos.fr*)

**Date:** 02/24/05

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2005 03:29:42 +0100

some wrote on 24/02/05 :

>> *BTW: It is considered better to use blanks (spaces) instead of tabs for  
>> code posted to newsgroups.*  
> *You mean I should leave some blanks before and after I post code or  
> something else instead of using /// like I did. Can you please explain  
> so that I can be careful in future.*

No, it's something else. For example, on your code :

```
int main(int argc,char *argv[]) {  
    int num;  
    ^  
| you have used the TAB character  
here.
```

The problem is that some news readers clients (or is it some news server, I don't know) strip the TAB and consequently, your code appears like

```
int main(int argc,char *argv[]) {  
int num;
```

which is not the expected way. To prevent that (and actually it solves a lot of presentation elsewhere too), it is highly recommended to use spaces instead of tabs:

[three spaces for a TAB]

```
int main(int argc,char *argv[]) {  
    int num;
```

Most of the text editors used to write code have this function ("insert n spaces when TAB is pressed"). Lurk at(for, in? please correct me) the options.

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Emmanuel

The C-FAQ: <http://www.eskimo.com/~scs/C-faq/faq.html>

The C-library: <http://www.dinkumware.com/refxc.html>

comp.lang.c: Re: newbie question

"Mal nommer les choses c'est ajouter du malheur au monde." -- Albert Camus.