

# The Friend Keyword Solutions

- What does it mean for a function or a class to be a friend?
  - The function or class has unrestricted access to private or protected members of the “friending” class
- How can we declare a function or a class as a friend?
  - Put the “friend” keyword in front of its declaration

- Explain why some programmers dislike the friend keyword
  - It gives the “friend” unrestricted access to all the data members and member functions in the class, not just the ones it needs
- Suggest a way in which the friend keyword can be avoided
  - The class can provide a public member function which does the work (e.g. sending data to a stream) without exposing any internal details
  - This can be called by the external class or function