

6

"Iron sharpens iron."

Undefined

If the “grammar” was not defined for a *given particular operation*, it is called as “Undefined”. So each compiler would give different answers for a *given particular operation*. Usually compilers won’t check such ‘Undefined’ usage. So it is our responsibility to check it.

6.1 Example

```
char buffer[5];
strcpy(buffer, "Hello World");      /* Undefined */
```

For example the operation of copying a string to buffer, which is smaller than the string is ‘Undefined’. That means Dennis Ritchie didn’t say (or define) anything about such operations.

6.2 Frequently Asked Undefined Questions

a) What is the output of following code?

```
int i = 7;
printf( "%d", i++ * i++ );
```

b) What would happen to the array after executing the following statements?

```
int a[5], i = 1;
a[i] = i++;
```

c) What is the value of i after the execution of the following statement?

```
int i = 7;
i = ++i;
```

These *idiotic* questions are very often asked in Indian Programming world. The outputs are undefined. Even if such questions are asked, the right answer will be “the result is undefined”.

Note

For the above program, you may get some output. But it is wrong. You have to understand that compilers may not check ‘Undefined’ grammars.