C++ Prerequisites – Checklist

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The very basics: do you know ...

• what a compiler does?
• what a main function is?
• what the difference between an int and a double is?

If you have seen Java, you should already know ...

• the basic data types,
• functions,
• arrays (even though they work a little bit differently in C++),
• controlling structures: for and while loops, if and switch statements,
• what classes and objects are.

C++ specifics that you really should know about are ...

• what #include <...> does (and what a header is),
• what the difference between call-by-reference and call-by-value is,
• pointers (!) and references,
• input and output streams (cout, cin, but also ifstream, ofstream)
• the STL container classes (vector, set, list, ...),
• the class string.

C++ specifics that are good to know are ...

• keyword const,
• the concept of iterators over containers.