

## Section 3.1 C++11

## inline namespace

Finally, declaring a template in the nested **inline** namespace `inner` in the example above and then subsequently defining it in the enclosing `outer` namespace has the same effect of making declared symbols ambiguous in the `outer` namespace:

```
namespace outer                                     // enclosing namespace
{
    inline namespace inner                          // BAD IDEA
    {
        template<typename T> struct S3;            // declarations of
        template<typename T> void f3();           // various class
        template<typename T> void g3(T v);        // and function
        struct A3 { template <typename T> void h3(); }; // templates
    }

    template<typename T> struct S3 { };           // definitions of
    template<typename T> void f3() { }            // unrelated class
    template<typename T> void g3(T v) { }        // and function
    template<typename T> void A3::h3() { }       // templates

    template<> struct S3<int> { };                // Error, S3 is ambiguous in outer.
    template<> void f3<int>() { }                 // Error, f3 is ambiguous in outer.
    void g3(int) { }                             // OK, g3 is an overload definition.
    template<> void A3::h3<int>() { }            // Error, h2 is ambiguous in outer.
}

```

Note that, ~~although the definition for a member function template must be located directly within the namespace in which it is declared,~~ a class or function template, once declared, may instead be defined in a different scope by using an appropriate name qualification:

```
template <typename T> struct outer::S3 { };      // OK, enclosing namespace
template <typename T> void outer::inner::f3() { } // OK, nested namespace
template <typename T> void outer::g3(T v) { }   // OK, enclosing namespace
template <typename T> void outer::A3::h3<T>() { } // Error, ill formed

namespace outer
{
    inline namespace inner
    {
        template <typename T> void A3::h3() { } // OK, within same namespace
    }
}

```

Also note that, as ever, the corresponding definition of the declared template must have been seen before it can be used in a context requiring a complete type. The importance of ensuring that all specializations of a template have been seen before it is used substantively (i.e., **ODR-used**) cannot be overstated, giving rise to the only limerick, which is actually part of the normative text, in the C++ Language Standard<sup>10</sup>:

<sup>10</sup>See [iso11a](#), section 14.7.3, “Explicit specialization,” paragraph 7, pp. 375–376, specifically p. 376.