

```

#include <iostream>          // std::cout
#include <initializer_list> // std::initializer_list

struct S
{
    S() { }
    S(std::initializer_list<S>) { std::cout << "init list\n"; }
    S(const S&) { std::cout << "copy\n"; }
};

int main()
{
    S s;
    auto s2{s}; // std::initializer_list<S> constructor is called after
                // deduction. (Note: s2 is deduced to be of type S.)
}

```

The program above prints `copy` followed by `init list` because (1) the type of `s2` is deduced to be `S` per **auto type deduction** rules, (2) **overload resolution** selects the `initializer_list` constructor as the best match due to use of a braced initializer, and (3) the single element of the `initializer_list` is **copy-initialized** from `s`. If **direct** or **copy initialization** were used for initializing `s2`, the `copy` constructor would be selected instead.

Compound assignment but not arithmetic operators accept braced lists

Braced initializers can be used to provide arguments to the **assignment operator** and additionally to compound **assignment operators** such as `+=`, where they are treated as calls to the **overloaded** operator function for class types, or as `+= T{value}` for a scalar type `T`.¹⁰ Note that assigning to scalars supports braced lists of no more than a single element and does not support compound assignment for pointer types, since the braced lists are converted to a pointer type, which cannot appear on the right-hand side of a compound **assignment operator**.

While the intent of compounded assignment is to be semantically equivalent to the **expression** `a = a + b` (or `* b`, or `- b`, and so on), braced lists cannot be used in regular arithmetic **expressions** since the grammar does not support braced lists as arbitrary **expressions**:

¹⁰Although valid, the two `x += {3}` and `x *= {3}` lines in the example compile successfully on Clang but not on any version of GCC or MSVC at the time of writing. The C++11 Standard currently states:

A braced-init-list may appear on the right-hand side of

- an assignment to a scalar, in which case the initializer list shall have at most a single element. The meaning of `x={v}`, where `T` is the scalar type of the expression `x`, is that of `x=T{v}` except that no narrowing conversion (8.5.4) is allowed. The meaning of `x={}` is `x=T{}`.

(**iso11a**, paragraph 9, section 5.17, “Assignment and Compound Assignment Operators,” p. 126). There is currently a **defect report** to clarify the Standard and explicitly state that this rule also applies to compound assignments; see CWG issue 1542 (**millier12b**) and **millier21**.