



## Using the (c) symbol

It is wise for copyright owners to mark their work with a copyright notice, that is:

- the © symbol,
- the name of the copyright owner,
- the year of first publication, and
- the statement "all rights reserved."
- for example, " © Lisa C James, 2008. All rights reserved."

The copyright mark © gives notice to others that you are asserting copyright in your 'work'. It is not, strictly speaking, necessary to mark your work with this symbol in Canada; however, if you need to enforce your right in court at a later date, a copyright notice makes your case easier to prosecute. Infringers cannot claim not to have known that there was a copyright claim because the mark warns them.

In some other countries, like the United States, it is necessary to mark your work with the □ symbol, the name of the copyright owner, and the year of first publication in order to enforce your rights.

The © symbol does not mean that copyright has been registered. Is it necessary to register copyright? No, but again, if you need to enforce your copyright by way of a lawsuit, registration is considered proof of your ownership. That can save a lot of time and work in a courtroom.

