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## Replacing `export` with `extern`

### 1. Proposal

At the Stockholm meeting in July 1996, the committee introduced the new keyword `export` to denote a template defined in an external compilation unit (separate compilation).

The keyword `export` was used during Core-3 discussions, awaiting a suitable time to decide on the actual keyword to use (suggestions were `extern`, `true`, `not inline`, etc). However, Core-3 never got to the keyword discussion and `export` was voted into the working paper. I believe it was a mistake to invent a new keyword for this language feature.

I propose we use the keyword `extern` instead, which has the well established meaning of specifying that ordinary functions, variables and constants are defined in or accessible from some other translation unit.

### 2. Impact on language

Small; `export` was introduced at the July 1996 meeting.

### 3. Change to working paper

Replace every occurrence of the keyword `export` with `extern`.