A function terminates after executing a return statement. If a function has more than one return statement—for example, as alternatives to different if else selections—the function terminates after it executes the first return statement it reaches:

```c
int bigger(int a, int b)
{
    if (a > b )
        return a; // if a > b, function terminates here
    else
        return b; // otherwise, function terminates here
}
```

Here the else isn't needed, but it does help the casual reader understand the intent.

Functions with return values are much like functions in Pascal, FORTRAN, and BASIC. They return a value to the calling program, which then can assign that value to a variable, display the value, or otherwise use it. Here's a simple example that returns the cube of a type double value:

```c
double cube(double x) // x times x times x
{
```