

## Differences of both structs and classes:

| Property             | Struct                         | Class                           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Type                 | Value type                     | Reference type                  |
| Copy behavior        | Copied when passed or assigned | Passed around via pointers      |
| Memory management    | Copy when write                | Automatically reference counted |
| Programming paradigm | Functional programming         | Object-oriented programming     |
| Inheritance          | Not supported                  | Supported                       |
| Free init            | Initializes all variables      | Initializes no variables        |
| Mutability           | Explicit (var vs let)          | Always mutable                  |
| Go-to data structure | Yes                            | Used in specific circumstances  |

## Value type vs reference type

Structs are value types, which means that when they are copied or passed to a function, a new copy of the struct is created. Classes are reference types, which means that when they are copied or passed to a function, a reference to the class is copied instead of the class

itself.

### **Copied when passed or assigned vs passed around via pointers**

When a struct is passed to a function or assigned to a variable, a new copy of the struct is created. This means that the original struct and the new copy are two separate objects. When a class is passed to a function or assigned to a variable, a reference to the class is copied instead of the class itself. This means that the original class and the new reference refer to the same object.

### **Copy when write vs automatically reference counted**

Swift uses a memory management technique called automatic reference counting (ARC) to manage the memory of class instances. ARC keeps track of how many references there are to a class instance and deallocates the instance when there are no more references to it. Structs use a memory management technique called copy when write. This means that when a struct is modified, a new copy of the struct is created and the old struct is left untouched.

### **Functional programming vs object-oriented programming**

Structs are well-suited for functional programming because they are immutable and can be copied easily. Classes are well-suited for object-oriented programming because they can inherit from other classes and their properties and methods can be modified.

### **No inheritance vs inheritance**

Structs cannot inherit from other structs. Classes can inherit from other classes and inherit their properties and methods.

### **"Free" init initializes all variables vs "free" init initializes no variables**

The free init (required init?()) initializer for a struct initializes all of the struct's properties. The free init initializer for a class does not initialize any of the class's properties.

### **Mutability is explicit (var vs let) vs always mutable**

The mutability of a struct's property is explicit and is controlled by the var or let keyword. The properties of a class are always mutable.

### **Your "go to" data structure vs used in specific circumstances**

Structs are a good go-to data structure because they are lightweight, immutable, and can be

copied easily. Classes are used in specific circumstances, such as when you need to inherit from another class or when you need to store a mutable object.

In general, structs are a good choice for representing small, immutable pieces of data. Classes are a good choice for representing complex data structures or mutable objects.