Discuss the concept of parameters. What are parameters for? What is the difference between formal parameters and actual parameters?

Parameters are elements of a program, or variables, that are passed to methods. They allow the customization of behavior of the subroutine to the specific instance (defined by the parameter).

There are two types of parameters. The formal parameters, al;so known as dummy variables, are the definitions used in the subroutine call statement. They are essentially placeholders.

When the statement is actually called by the user, using the subroutine name and a parameter value, this is called the actual parameter. A clearer name is ‘argument’.