Exercise 1.1   Java, the "perfect" programming language?

Please read "The Java Language Environment - A White Paper" (form six groups and assign the readings below to each group: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapters 4+5, Chapters 6+7, Chapters 8+9.)
Please also compare to http://openbook.rheinwerk-verlag.de/javainsel/, chapter 1.2

Read the chapter(s) assigned to your group and prepare a summary to be presented to the course (max 5 min. per presentation).

For your presentation of the chapter(s) read, present/answer the following:
   a. Summarise the chapter(s) assigned
   b. What is new compared to programming languages you already know?
   c. Which features of Java do you like/dislike? Provide arguments.
   d. Which concepts/features did you not understand?

Exercise 1.2   Language Basics 1/2

On www.learnjavaonline.org, please work through section "Language Basics", subsections "Hello, World!" to "Functions". Please also work on the exercises (w/o looking at the solutions upfront).

Exercise 1.3   Self-Assessment

Please answer the following questions:

   (1)   List 5 special features/traits of the Java programming language and describe, why those are so special compared to other programming languages.
   (2)   What does "Java is a strongly typed language" mean?
   (3)   What is the difference between Strings in Java and in C?
   (4)   What does "to cast" mean?
   (5)   How can you declare and assign a number? List three different ways.
   (6)   Describe the difference between the == and the equals operator
   (7)   How can you determine the length of an array?
   (8)   Where can one use the foreach statement?
   (9)   What is the difference between the break and the continue statement?
   (10) What does it mean to be "static" for a method? What are the limitations implied by this?
   (11) Does the compiler differentiate between methods by using the return type, i.e., can there be a method `public int add(int a, int b)` and a method `public double add(int a, int b)` in parallel within the same class?