

# Splitting Strings

In the following lesson, you will learn how to split strings in Scala.

We'll cover the following

- Problem
- Solution

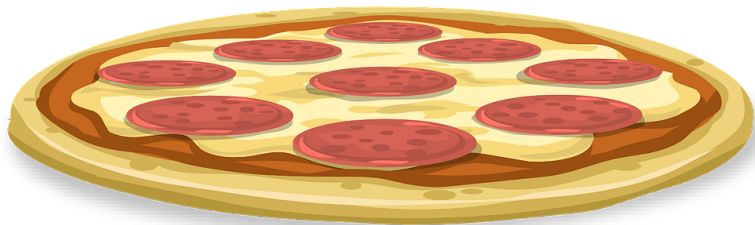
## Problem #

Imagine you have a list of items separated by a comma. You want to print the list vertically, item-by-item to make it easier to read. In other words, you want the compiler to split the string into separate lines at the commas.

**Pizza Dough, Tomato Sauce, Cheese, Toppings of Choice**



**Pizza Dough**  
**Tomato Sauce**  
**Cheese**  
**Toppings of**  
**Choice**



## Solution #

In Scala, you can use the `split` method to split strings at specific separators such as commas. `split` converts a string into an array of `String` elements and returns that array. For instance, if we have a string `"a,b,c"` and apply the `split` method

on it, we would get an array of type `String` containing three elements: `"a"`, `"b"`, and `"c"`.

An array is a collection of elements of the same data type. For now, you can think of it as a variable that can store multiple values and each value has its own unique place. We will look at arrays in a later [lesson](#) in the course.

**"a,b,c"**  **split**  **array["a","b","c"]**

Let's look at the syntax:

**keyword** **variableName** = **"str1,str2,...,strn".split(",")**

`split` takes one argument which lets the compiler know which separator it should split the string at. In our example, we are splitting at a comma, but you can choose any separator you want; `"#"`, `"*"`, etc.

This code requires the following environment variables to execute:

LANG C.UTF-8

```
val splitPizza = "Pizza Dough,Tomato Sauce,Cheese,Toppings of Choice".split(",")  
  
// Driver Code  
splitPizza.foreach(println)
```



You might have noticed that we haven't used the conventional syntax for printing; `println(VariableName)`. The reason for this, as discussed above, is that we aren't just printing a simple variable, rather, we are printing the elements of an array. `foreach` is a method which is used to perform an operation on every element of a collection of elements. In our case, the operation we want to perform on each element is to print it. If you don't understand this, that's okay, the `foreach` method is discussed in detail in a later [lesson](#). For now, all you need to know is that it is printing every element of the array.

Let's move on to the next problem, character processing.

