Java Arrays

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Java Arrays

Arrays are used to store multiple values in a single variable, instead of declaring separate variables for each value.

To declare an array, define the variable type with **square brackets**:

```
String[] cars;
```

We have now declared a variable that holds an array of strings. To insert values to it, we can use an array literal - place the values in a comma-separated list, inside curly braces:

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
```

To create an array of integers, you could write:

```
int[] myNum = {10, 20, 30, 40};
```

Access the Elements of an Array

You access an array element by referring to the index number.

This statement accesses the value of the first element in cars:

Example

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
System.out.println(cars[0]);
// Outputs Volvo
```

Try it Yourself »

Note: Array indexes start with 0: [0] is the first element. [1] is the second element, etc.

Change an Array Element

To change the value of a specific element, refer to the index number:

Example

```
cars[0] = "Opel";
```

Example

```
cars[0] = "Opel";
System.out.println(cars[0]);
// Now outputs Opel instead of Volvo
```

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Array Length

To find out how many elements an array has, use the `length` property:

Example

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
System.out.println(cars.length);
// Outputs 4
```

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Loop Through an Array

You can loop through the array elements with the `for` loop, and use the `length` property to specify how many times the loop should run.

The following example outputs all elements in the **cars** array:

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
for (int i = 0; i < cars.length; i++) {
  System.out.println(cars[i]);
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Loop Through an Array with For-Each

There is also a "**for-each**" loop, which is used exclusively to loop through elements in arrays:

Syntax

```
for (type variable : arrayname) {
  ...
}
```

The following example outputs all elements in the **cars** array, using a "**for-each**" loop:

Example

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
for (String i : cars) {
  System.out.println(i);
}
```

Try it Yourself »

If you compare the `for` loop and **for-each** loop, you will see that the **for-each** method is easier to write, it does not require a counter (using the length property), and it is more readable.

Multidimensional Arrays

A multidimensional array is an array containing one or more arrays.

To create a two-dimensional array, add each array within its own set of **curly braces**:

Example

```
int[][] myNumbers = { {1, 2, 3, 4}, {5, 6, 7} };
```

myNumbers is now an array with two arrays as its elements.

To access the elements of the **myNumbers** array, specify two indexes: one for the array, and one for the element inside that array. This example accesses the third element (2) in the second array (1) of myNumbers:

Example

```
int[][] myNumbers = { {1, 2, 3, 4}, {5, 6, 7} };
int x = myNumbers[1][2];
System.out.println(x); // Outputs 7
```

Try it Yourself »

We can also use a `for loop` inside another `for loop` to get the elements of a two-dimensional array (we still have to point to the two indexes):

Example

```
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int[][] myNumbers = { {1, 2, 3, 4}, {5, 6, 7} };
    for (int i = 0; i < myNumbers.length; ++i) {
      for(int j = 0; j < myNumbers[i].length; ++j) {
        System.out.println(myNumbers[i][j]);
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Create an array of type `String` called `cars` .

```
= {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford"};
```

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Start the Exercise

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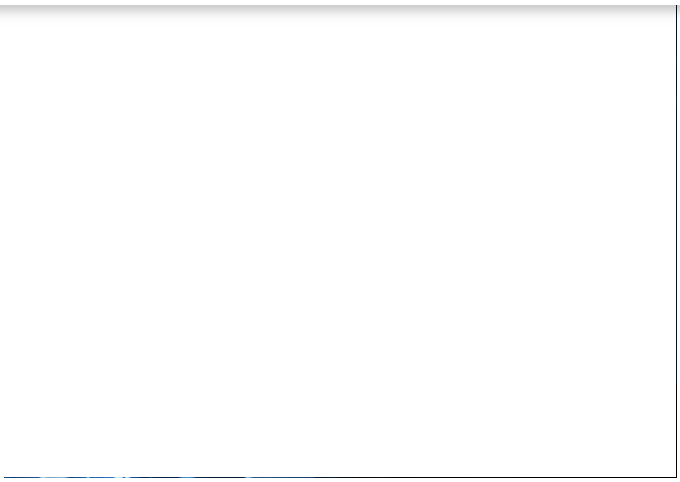

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