# Inheritance: the Superclass

In this example you begin by defining a more general MotorVehicle class.

public class MotorVehicle {  
  
 private String licensePlate; // e.g. "New York A456 324"  
 private double speed; // kilometers per hour  
 private double maxSpeed; // kilometers per hour  
 private String make; // e.g. "Harley-Davidson", "Ford"  
 private String model; // e.g. "Fatboy", "Taurus"  
 private int year; // e.g. 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, etc.  
 private int numberPassengers; // e.g. 4  
   
   
 // constructors  
 public MotorVehicle(String licensePlate, double maxSpeed,  
 String make, String model, int year, int numberOfPassengers) {  
 this(licensePlate, 0.0, maxSpeed, make, model, year, numberOfPassengers);   
 }  
  
 public MotorVehicle(String licensePlate, double speed, double maxSpeed,  
 String make, String model, int year, int numberOfPassengers) {  
  
 // I could add some more constraints like the  
 // number of doors being positive but I won't  
 // so that this example doesn't get too big.  
 this.licensePlate = licensePlate;   
 this.make = make;   
 this.model = model;   
 this.year = year;   
 this.numberPassengers = numberOfPassengers;   
  
 if (maxSpeed >= 0.0) {  
 this.maxSpeed = maxSpeed;  
 }  
 else {  
 maxSpeed = 0.0;  
 }  
   
 if (speed < 0.0) {  
 speed = 0.0;  
 }  
   
 if (speed <= maxSpeed) {  
 this.speed = speed;  
 }  
 else {  
 this.speed = maxSpeed;  
 }  
   
 }  
   
   
 // getter (accessor) methods  
 public String getLicensePlate() {  
 return this.licensePlate;  
 }  
  
 public String getMake() {  
 return this.make;  
 }  
  
 public String getModel() {  
 return this.model;  
 }  
  
 public int getYear() {  
 return this.year;  
 }  
   
 public int getNumberOfPassengers() {  
 return this.numberPassengers;  
 }  
   
 public int getNumberOfPassengers() {  
 return this.numberWheels;  
 }  
   
 public double getMaxSpeed() {  
 return this.speed;  
 }  
  
 public double getSpeed() {  
 return this.maxSpeed;  
 }  
  
 // setter method for the license plate property  
 protected void setLicensePlate(String licensePlate) {  
 this.licensePlate = licensePlate;  
 }  
  
 // accelerate to maximum speed  
 // put the pedal to the metal  
 public void floorIt() {  
 this.speed = this.maxSpeed;   
 }  
   
 public void accelerate(double deltaV) {  
  
 this.speed = this.speed + deltaV;  
 if (this.speed > this.maxSpeed) {  
 this.speed = this.maxSpeed;   
 }  
 if (this.speed < 0.0) {  
 this.speed = 0.0;   
 }   
   
 }  
   
}

The MotorVehicle class has all the characteristics shared by motorcycles and cars, but it leaves the number of wheels unspecified, and it doesn't have a numberDoors field since not all motor vehicles have doors. It also makes the fields and the setLicensePlate() method protected instead of private and public.

[Previous](http://docs.google.com/05.html) | [Next](http://docs.google.com/07.html) | [Top](http://docs.google.com/index.html) | [Cafe au Lait](http://www.cafeaulait.org/)

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