# toString() Methods

Print methods are common in some languages, but most Java programs operate differently. You can use System.out.println() to print any object. However for good results your class should have a toString() method that formats the object's data in a sensible way and returns a string. Otherwise all that's printed is the name of the class which is normally not what you want. For example, a good toString() method for the Car class might be

public String toString() {  
 return (this.licensePlate + " is moving at " + this.speed   
 + "kph and has a maximum speed of " + this.maxSpeed +"kph.");  
 }

[Previous](http://docs.google.com/33.html) | [Next](http://docs.google.com/35.html) | [Top](http://docs.google.com/index.html) | [Cafe au Lait](http://www.cafeaulait.org/)

Copyright 1997, 1998 Elliotte Rusty Harold

[elharo@metalab.unc.edu](mailto:elharo@metalab.unc.edu)

Last Modified October 16, 1998