

# JAVA FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

## FINAL KEYWORD IN JAVA



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Hola, te saluda nuevamente Ubaldo Acosta. Espero que estés listo para comenzar con esta lección.

Vamos a estudiar el tema de la palabra final en Java.

¿Estás listo? ¡Vamos!

## FINAL KEYWORD IN JAVA

- **USE OF THE FINAL KEYWORD IN JAVA.**
- **IN VARIABLES:** Avoid changing the value stored by the variable
- **IN METHODS:** Prevent the definition of a method from a subclass
- **IN CLASSES:** Prevent a subclass from being created



Ej. Math.PI

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The final keyword affects not only variables, but it is also possible to use it in methods and classes. In each one it has a different meaning that is what we will study in this lesson.

First we will see what it means to use the final keyword when defining a variable.

It is possible to initialize a final variable, but once its value has been initialized, it is no longer possible to modify it, however remember that the variables that store references of objects do not contain the value of the object itself, but only the reference where locate the same. This means that it is possible to change the state of the object, but not the reference stored in the variable that was created indicating that it is final. In a few words it is said that the final word is like creating a constant in Java, however we must take into account what is mentioned with respect to objects.

Because the final keyword is like creating a constant, it is very common to combine it with the static keyword to be able to access it directly instead of creating an instance of the class to be able to use the final variable, instead defining a variable as public static and final we can access it directly indicating the name of the class and later the name of the variable, and even more, if we add the static import we can directly use the name of the constant as we will see later. A very common example is the use of the PI constant, which is defined in the Math class. This variable if we see its code is defined as public final and static, therefore we can access by typing: Math.PI and this will return the value of 3.1416 ...

When we are talking about using the final word in the definition of a method, we are basically saying that a subclass can not overwrite the behavior of the method of the parent class, that is, as well as inheriting it, it must use it and can not modify it. The topic of overwriting will be discussed in detail in the next course.

And finally, when we talk about classes, when we define a class as final, what we indicate is that you can not create class that extends this class, that is, it will not have child classes. It is like indicating that this will be the last class in the class hierarchy for this particular class.

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