

`print` commands aren’t the most exciting thing in coding, but eventually, you’ll want to print something out, even if only for debugging or testing your code. You won’t find anything too surprising in Java’s methods for printing, but there are some slight differences from C, Python, and Javascript.

You can print the text "Hello, World!" to the screen using a the method call `System.out.println("Hello, World!");`.

Why so much typing for a simple print? Frequently, method calls require an **object** to act on in Java.

`System.out` is also the name of an object: the main printed output device for your program. So `System.out.println` calls the method `println` on the `System.out` object.

`println` requires one parameter, which should be a string of text, like `"Hello, World"` , or something that Java can convert to a string, like `6` . Strings are marked by double quotes `"` in Java.

String concatenation

Strings can be concatenated in Java using the `+` operator. `System.out.println("My name is " + "Inigo Montoya")` first concatenates the two strings, and then prints the result. As long as one of the items is a string, the two items are converted to strings before concatenation. So

```
System.out.println("My favorite number is " + 42);
```

converts `42` to a string, concatenates, and prints. Order of operations matters. What would the following print?

```
System.out.println(42 + 22 + " is my favorite number.");
```

Special characters: printing quotes, newlines, tabs, etc.

Just like in Python, Javascript, or any other language influenced by C, you can use backslash codes. `\n` will give you a newline, and `\t` will give you a tab.

In some languages, like Python, you can use either single, double, or triple quotes to create a string, and a clever choice will allow you to print quotes of a different type within a string. Java doesn’t have this capability, so if you want to print double quotes, you’ll need the code `\"` .

Formatted printing with `format`

Java provides a method `format` that works like the `printf` function in C, or like the string substitution operator `%` in Python. If you know how one of those works, just skip to the example at the end of this section. Otherwise, read on.

Sometimes, you’d like to print out a combination of text data and values, but you’d like to keep your code clean and readable without a lot of string concatenation. For example, maybe you’d like to print out the value of π . The `format` method will let you use a *format string* as the first parameter, and substitute later parameters into that string.

```
System.out.format("%f is an approximation of pi.", 3.14159).
```

The `%f` is a *format specifier* marks the location where the parameter `3.14159` should be substituted. The letter `f` in `%f` indicates that the value will be a floating point number. For an integer, use `%d` .

Sometimes you’d like your output to be formatted nicely. You can do things like round the number as it is inserted, or pad the number with spaces. A format specifier like `%9.2f` would print a floating point number with 2 digits after the decimal, left-padded with spaces to take up 9 characters (including the decimal). A few examples:

```
package com.github.akarazhev.jacademy.jprog.basics;

public final class PrintExamples {

    public static void main(final String[] args) {
        System.out.format("My favorite number is %.3f.\n", 3.141592654);
        // part of a times table:
        System.out.format("%2d %2d %2d\n", 4, 6, 8);
        System.out.format("%2d %2d %2d\n", 8, 12, 16);
    }
}
```