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1  ###
2
3  ~ Introduction to
4
5  ~ ~ ~ • Basic classes. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
6
7  ~ We won't make classes very often, but we will use _existing_ classes a lot.
8  ~ Knowing a little about what a class is and how they are built will make it easier to understand how to use pre-made classes.
9
10 ###
11
12
13 ##### P1
14 # A class is like a template for an object.
15 # A class definition describes a new category of objects.
16
17 class Cat ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ # The start of a "class definition" for the class 'Cat'. Note the Uppercase naming convention.
18 ~ hairballs:10 ~ ~ ~ # All Cat objects will have the hairball property
19 ~ hork:-> ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ # All Cat objects will have the hork() method
20 ~ ~ ~ print "HORK"
21 ~
22 # An object based on a class is called an "instance". We create instances like this:
23 hobbes = new Cat() # Create an instance of 'Cat'
24 mittens = new Cat()
25 # Note camelCase naming convention for variables that reference instances.
26
27 # An instance has all the methods and properties defined by its class.
28 hobbes.hork()
29 print hobbes.hairballs
30 print mittens.hairballs
31
32 # Tech Note: If you're familiar with JavaScript, you may be asking:
33 # "How does CoffeeScript have classes if it transpiles to JavaScript, which does not have classes?"
34 # Answer: Under the hood it's using JavaScript's prototype approach, it's just wrapped in key words
35 # that let us express things how we would in other class based languages.
36
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38 ##### P2
39 # Class definitions in CoffeeScript can include a special 'constructor' method.
40 # This method will be called, automatically, when a new instance is created.
41 # Other languages have similar mechanisms, though they might be called something like 'init'
42
43 class Robot
44   constructor->
45     print "I'm Alive!"
46
47
48 r = new Robot()
49
50 ##### P3
51 # Constructor methods can accept arguments.
52 # This can be a handy way to configure an instance when we create one.
53
54 class Robot
55   constructor:(givenName)->
56     print "I'm Alive!"
57     print "My name is " + givenName
58     @name = givenName # The '@' refers to the specific instance of Robot being constructed NOT the Robot class.
59     # This allows us to refer to the object being made when it is being made.
60
61 r = new Robot "Johnny" # Note that we can omit the parenthesis like with normal function calls.
62 print r.name
63
64 # Technically, when we create an instance, we're calling a function that returns an object.
65
66
67 ##### P4
68 # When creating an instance, we can leave off the parenthesis even if we don't provide an argument.
69
70 class Derp
71   isADerp:true
72
73 d = new Derp # The 'new' keyword is enough of a context clue for CoffeeScript to know what we want.
74 print d
75
76

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77 ##### P5
78 # Constructor methods can accept objects as arguments just like any other function.
79 # This allows us to configure complex objects without having to remember the exact order that arguments should go in.
80
81 class Box
82     constructor:(size)->
83         @w = size.width
84         @h = size.height
85         @d = size.depth
86
87     getVolume:->
88         return @w * @h * @d
89
90 b1 = new Box({width:10,height:10,depth:10})
91 b2 = new Box({height:20,depth:20,width:20})
92
93 print b1.getVolume()
94 print b2.getVolume()
95
96
```



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##### P6
# The same exact same program using object notation shortcuts.

class Box
  constructor:(size)->
    @w = size.width
    @h = size.height
    @d = size.depth

    getVolume:->
      @w * @h * @d # The results of this math are automatically returned

b1 = new Box
  width:10
  height:10
  depth:10

# Create a Box instance, while passing the constructor a configuration object.
# This approach is VERY common to CoffeeScript and Framer.
# Study it carefully.

b2 = new Box
  width:20
  height:20
  depth:20

print b1.getVolume()
print b2.getVolume()

#####
##### End / Note
#####
###

Functions and Classes (in whatever form) allow developers to create complex and reusable building blocks.
A collection of these building blocks is called a "library" or a "framework".
FramerJS is itself such a "library".
Other JavaScript libraries include: jQuery, D3, P5, React, Three.js. There are many more though.
Framer is a little peculiar because it is written in CoffeeScript.
That's a topic for another day though...

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