Abstract class in java

* Abstract classes may or may not contain *abstract methods*, i.e., methods without body ( public void get(); )
* But, if a class has at least one abstract method, then the class **must** be declared abstract.
* If a class is declared abstract, it cannot be instantiated.
* To use an abstract class, you have to inherit it from another class, provide implementations to the abstract methods in it.
* If you inherit an abstract class, you have to provide implementations to all the abstract methods in it.

Declaring a method as abstract has two consequences −

* The class containing it must be declared as abstract.
* Any class inheriting the current class must either override the abstract method or declare itself as abstract.

Let’s create a scenario when to use abstract class first. We know that all banks have some minimum interest rate and minimum loan amount that customer can use. Banks also have rules that they can give loan upto certain age group only. Now every bank must these features but the minimum interest rate and minimum loan amount can be different for different banks. For example SBI bank has its own minimum interest rate and minimum load rate while Nepal Investment bank has its own. That’s where abstract class comes in handy.

In the example below we create an abstract class called Bank and gave it two methods getMinimumInterestRate() and getMinimumLoanAmounts(). We set these two abstract methods to abstract class Bank so that classes that extend Bank class can implement these two abstract methods and set their own implementations.

Consider two classes SBIBank and NepalInvestmentBank are the two classes to extend class Bank and must implement abstract methods. And each these two classes will have their own function body for the methods they just implemented from the abstract class. Such way two different banks can specify their own minimum interest rate and minimum load amounts for the same method.

Another feature of abstract class is that every method inside it is not necessarily abstract, i.e abstract class can have non abstract method too and for that non abstract method it should have method body as well just like any other method. This non abstract method can be used as common method for both SBIBank and NepalInvestmentBank.

Abstractclass can also have constructors.

Bank.java

**public** **abstract** **class** Bank {

**abstract** **void** getInterestRate();

**abstract** **void** getMinimumLoanAmount();

**void** ageOfLoad() {

System.*out*.println("The minimum age of all banks is: 80 years");

}

}

NepalInvestment.java

**public** **class** NepalInvestment **extends** Bank {

**void** getInterestRate() {

// **TODO** Auto-generated method stub

System.*out*.println("Nepal Investment bank: Interest rate = 7%");

}

**void** getMinimumLoanAmount() {

// **TODO** Auto-generated method stub

System.*out*

.println("Nepal Investment bank: Minimum Load Amout = Rs 5000");

}

}

SBIBank.java

**public** **class** SBIBank **extends** Bank {

**void** getInterestRate() {

// **TODO** Auto-generated method stub

System.*out*.println("SBI bank: Interest rate = 12%");

}

**void** getMinimumLoanAmount() {

// **TODO** Auto-generated method stub

System.*out*.println("SBI bank: Interest rate = Rs 20000");

}

}

UserClass.java

**public** **class** UserClass {

**public** **static** **void** main(String[] args) {

Bank nepalInvest = **new** NepalInvestment();

nepalInvest.getMinimumLoanAmount();

nepalInvest.getInterestRate();

Bank sbiBank = **new** SBIBank();

sbiBank.getMinimumLoanAmount();

sbiBank.getInterestRate();

sbiBank.ageOfLoad();// this is common for both classes

}

}

The abstract class can also be used to provide some implementation of the interface. In such case, the end user may not be forced to override all the methods of the interface.

interface A{

void a();

void b();

void c();

void d();

}

abstract class B implements A{

public void c(){System.out.println("I am C");} //now this is non abstract method

}

class M extends B{

public void a(){System.out.println("I am a");}

public void b(){System.out.println("I am b");}

public void d(){System.out.println("I am d");}

}

class Test5{

public static void main(String args[]){

A a=new M();

a.a();

a.b();

a.c(); //now this is non abstract method

a.d();

}}