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Identifiers

All Java **variables** must be **identified** with **unique names**.

These unique names are called **identifiers**.

Identifiers can be short names (like x and y) or more descriptive names (age, sum, totalVolume).

Note: It is recommended to use descriptive names in order to create understandable and maintainable code:

Example

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// OK, but not so easy to understand what m actually is

`int m = 60;`

Try it Yourself »

The general rules for naming variables are:

- Names can contain letters, digits, underscores, and dollar signs
- Names must begin with a letter
- Names should start with a lowercase letter, and cannot contain whitespace
- Names can also begin with \$ and _
- Names are case-sensitive ("myVar" and "myvar" are different variables)
- Reserved words (like Java keywords, such as `int` or `boolean`) cannot be used as names

Exercise ?

Which is NOT a legal variable name?

☐ `int myInteger = 20;`☐ `int int = 20;`

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