**Used Cars - FAQ**

**Do my instance variables REALLY need to be private?**

Yes.

**Should I re-declare them in the sub-class(es)?**

No. They would "hide" (cover up) the inherited variables.

**But I can't access private instance variables from a sub-class!**

True, private instance variables can only be accessed directly in the declaring class. However, the public getter methods WILL be inherited.

It's interesting to note that, when attempting to access a private super-class variable directly, the compiler *doesn't* say "can't find variable \_\_\_", it says "<variable> has private access". The compiler *knows* it exists, it just can't be accessed directly!

**Why am I getting a NullPointerException?**

Make double sure you're not re-declaring inherited variables in a sub-class. If you're sure you're not, make sure you've initialized all instance variables in the respective constructors.

**Help! I have a ton of errors, and finally a "StackOverflowException". What gives?**

You have a method calling itself (a concept called ***recursion*** that we'll talk about later this year). If you're trying to call a super-class method from an overridden sub-class method, you must specify super.method(), rather than just calling method() otherwise the overridden sub-class method will be called (will call itself).