**Inheritance in Java** is a mechanism in which one object acquires all the properties and behaviors of a parent object. It is an important part of [OOPs](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-oops-concepts) (Object Oriented programming system).

The idea behind inheritance in Java is that you can create new [classes](https://www.javatpoint.com/object-and-class-in-java) that are built upon existing classes. When you inherit from an existing class, you can reuse methods and fields of the parent class. Moreover, you can add new methods and fields in your current class also.

Inheritance represents the **IS-A relationship** which is also known as a parent-child relationship.

Why use inheritance in java

* For [Method Overriding](https://www.javatpoint.com/method-overriding-in-java) (so [runtime polymorphism](https://www.javatpoint.com/runtime-polymorphism-in-java) can be achieved).
* For Code Reusability.

Terms used in Inheritance

* **Class:** A class is a group of objects which have common properties. It is a template or blueprint from which objects are created.
* **Sub Class/Child Class:** Subclass is a class which inherits the other class. It is also called a derived class, extended class, or child class.
* **Super Class/Parent Class:** Superclass is the class from where a subclass inherits the features. It is also called a base class or a parent class.
* **Reusability:** As the name specifies, reusability is a mechanism which facilitates you to reuse the fields and methods of the existing class when you create a new class. You can use the same fields and methods already defined in the previous class.

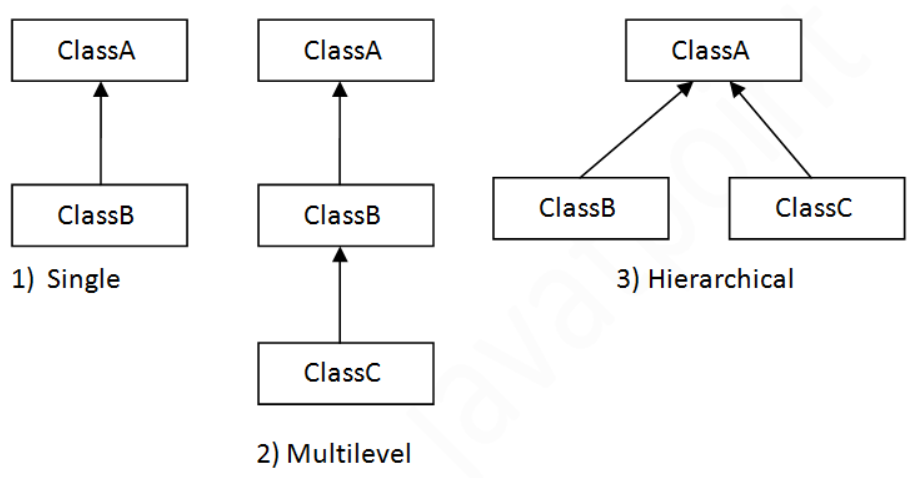
The syntax of Java Inheritance

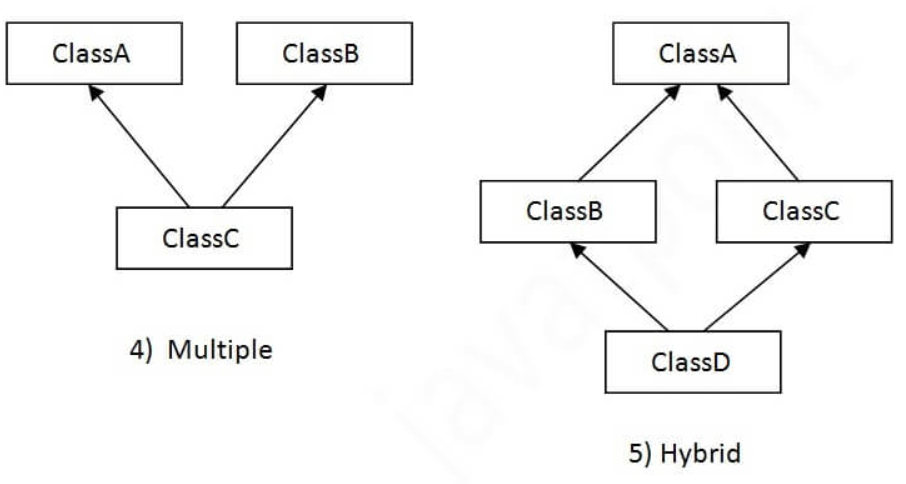
1. **class** Subclass-name **extends** Superclass-name
2. {
3. //methods and fields
4. }
5. **class** Employee{
6. **float** salary=40000;
7. }
8. **class** Programmer **extends** Employee{
9. **int** bonus=10000;
10. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
11. Programmer p=**new** Programmer();
12. System.out.println("Programmer salary is:"+p.salary);
13. System.out.println("Bonus of Programmer is:"+p.bonus);
14. }
15. }

**Types of inheritance in java**

On the basis of class, there can be three types of inheritance in java: single, multilevel and hierarchical.

In java programming, multiple and hybrid inheritance is supported through interface only. We will learn about interfaces later.





**Single Inheritance Example**

When a class inherits another class, it is known as a *single inheritance*. In the example given below, Dog class inherits the Animal class, so there is the single inheritance.

*File: TestInheritance.java*

1. **class** Animal{
2. **void** eat(){System.out.println("eating...");}
3. }
4. **class** Dog **extends** Animal{
5. **void** bark(){System.out.println("barking...");}
6. }
7. **class** TestInheritance{
8. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
9. Dog d=**new** Dog();
10. d.bark();
11. d.eat();
12. }}

Multilevel Inheritance Example

When there is a chain of inheritance, it is known as *multilevel inheritance*. As you can see in the example given below, BabyDog class inherits the Dog class which again inherits the Animal class, so there is a multilevel inheritance.

*File: TestInheritance2.java*

1. **class** Animal{
2. **void** eat(){System.out.println("eating...");}
3. }
4. **class** Dog **extends** Animal{
5. **void** bark(){System.out.println("barking...");}
6. }
7. **class** BabyDog **extends** Dog{
8. **void** weep(){System.out.println("weeping...");}
9. }
10. **class** TestInheritance2{
11. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
12. BabyDog d=**new** BabyDog();
13. d.weep();
14. d.bark();
15. d.eat();
16. }}

Hierarchical Inheritance Example

When two or more classes inherits a single class, it is known as *hierarchical inheritance*. In the example given below, Dog and Cat classes inherits the Animal class, so there is hierarchical inheritance.

*File: TestInheritance3.java*

1. **class** Animal{
2. **void** eat(){System.out.println("eating...");}
3. }
4. **class** Dog **extends** Animal{
5. **void** bark(){System.out.println("barking...");}
6. }
7. **class** Cat **extends** Animal{
8. **void** meow(){System.out.println("meowing...");}
9. }
10. **class** TestInheritance3{
11. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
12. Cat c=**new** Cat();
13. c.meow();
14. c.eat();
15. //c.bark();//C.T.Error
16. }}

Why multiple inheritance is not supported in java?

To reduce the complexity and simplify the language, multiple inheritance is not supported in java.

Consider a scenario where A, B, and C are three classes. The C class inherits A and B classes. If A and B classes have the same method and you call it from child class object, there will be ambiguity to call the method of A or B class.

Since compile-time errors are better than runtime errors, Java renders compile-time error if you inherit 2 classes. So whether you have same method or different, there will be compile time error.

1. **class** A{
2. **void** msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
3. }
4. **class** B{
5. **void** msg(){System.out.println("Welcome");}
6. }
7. **class** C **extends** A,B{//suppose if it were
9. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
10. C obj=**new** C();
11. obj.msg();//Now which msg() method would be invoked?
12. }
13. }

# Method Overriding in Java

If subclass (child class) has the same method as declared in the parent class, it is known as **method overriding in Java**.

In other words, If a subclass provides the specific implementation of the method that has been declared by one of its parent class, it is known as method overriding.

### Usage of Java Method Overriding

* Method overriding is used to provide the specific implementation of a method which is already provided by its superclass.
* Method overriding is used for runtime polymorphism

#### Rules for Java Method Overriding

1. The method must have the same name as in the parent class
2. The method must have the same parameter as in the parent class.
3. There must be an IS-A relationship (inheritance).

class Animal {

public void displayInfo() {

System.out.println("I am an animal.");

}

}

class Dog extends Animal {

@Override

public void displayInfo() {

System.out.println("I am a dog.");

}

}

class Main {

public static void main(String[] args) {

Dog d1 = new Dog();

d1.displayInfo();

}

}

//Java Program to demonstrate the real scenario of Java Method Overriding

//where three classes are overriding the method of a parent class.

//Creating a parent class.

**class** Bank{

**int** getRateOfInterest(){**return** 0;}

}

//Creating child classes.

**class** SBI **extends** Bank{

**int** getRateOfInterest(){**return** 8;}

}

**class** ICICI **extends** Bank{

**int** getRateOfInterest(){**return** 7;}

}

**class** AXIS **extends** Bank{

**int** getRateOfInterest(){**return** 9;}

}

//Test class to create objects and call the methods

**class** Test2{

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

SBI s=**new** SBI();

ICICI i=**new** ICICI();

AXIS a=**new** AXIS();

System.out.println("SBI Rate of Interest: "+s.getRateOfInterest());

System.out.println("ICICI Rate of Interest: "+i.getRateOfInterest());

System.out.println("AXIS Rate of Interest: "+a.getRateOfInterest());

}

}