

UNIT -2

INHERITANCE AND INTERFACES

2.1 INHERITANCE

Inheritance is the mechanism in java by which one class is allow to inherit the features (fields and methods) of another class. It is process of deriving a new class from an existing class. A class that is inherited is called a *superclass* and the class that does the inheriting is called a *subclass*. Inheritance represents the IS-A relationship, also known as *parent-child* relationship. The keyword used for inheritance is extends.

Syntax:

```
class Subclass-name extends Superclass-name
{
    //methods and fields
}
```

Here, the extends keyword indicates that we are creating a new class that derives from an existing class.

Note: The constructors of the superclass are never inherited by the subclass

Advantages of Inheritance:

- Code reusability - public methods of base class can be reused in derived classes
- Data hiding – private data of base class cannot be altered by derived class
- Overriding--With inheritance, we will be able to override the methods of the base class in the derived class

Example:

```
// Create a superclass.
class BaseClass{
    int a=10,b=20;
    public void add(){
        System.out.println("Sum:"+(a+b));
    }
}
```

```
    }  
}  
// Create a subclass by extending class BaseClass.  
public class Main extends BaseClass  
{  
    public void sub(){  
        System.out.println("Difference:"+(a-b));  
    }  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Main obj=new Main();  
        /*The subclass has access to all public members of its superclass*/  
        obj.add();  
        obj.sub();  
    }  
}
```

Sample Output:

Sum:30

Difference:-10

In this example, Main is the subclass and BaseClass is the superclass. Main object can access the field of own class as well as of BaseClass class i.e. code reusability.

Types of inheritance

Single Inheritance :

In single inheritance, a subclass inherit the features of one superclass.

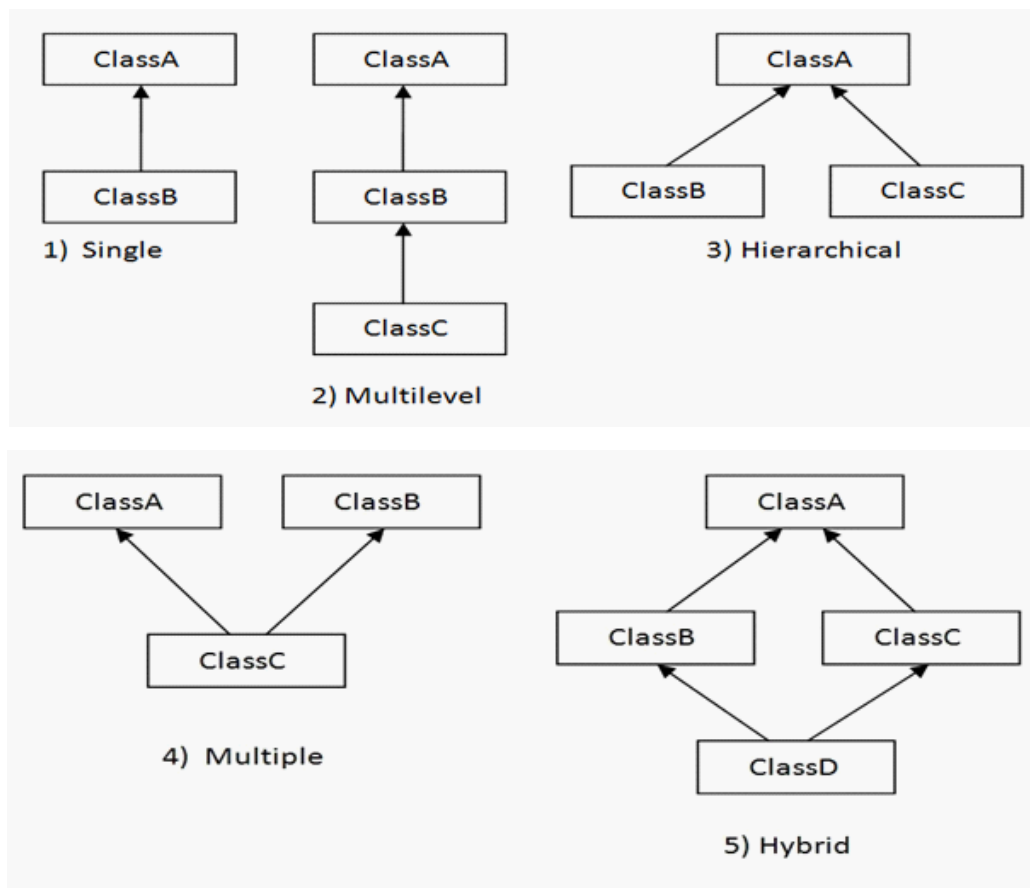
Example:

```
class Shape{  
    int a=10,b=20;  
}  
class Rectangle extends Shape{  
    public void rectArea(){  
        System.out.println("Rectangle Area:"+(a*b));  
    }  
}
```

```

    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Rectangle obj=new Rectangle();
        obj.rectArea();
    }
}

```



Multilevel Inheritance:

In Multilevel Inheritance, a derived class will be inheriting a base class and as well as the derived class also act as the base class to other class i.e. a derived class in turn acts as a base class for another class.

Example:

```
class Numbers{
    int a=10,b=20;
}
class Add2 extends Numbers{
    int c=30;
    public void sum2(){
        System.out.println("Sum of 2 nos.:"+(a+b));
    }
}
class Add3 extends Add2{
    public void sum3(){
        System.out.println("Sum of 3 nos.:"+(a+b+c));
    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Add3 obj=new Add3();
        obj.sum2();
        obj.sum3();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

```
Sum of 2 nos.:30
Sum of 3 nos.:60
```

Hierarchical Inheritance:

In Hierarchical Inheritance, one class serves as a superclass (base class) for more than one sub class.

Example:

```
class Shape{
    int a=10,b=20;
}
class Rectangle extends Shape{
    public void rectArea(){
        System.out.println("Rectangle Area:"+(a*b));
    }
}
class Triangle extends Shape{
    public void triArea(){
        System.out.println("Triangle Area:"+(0.5*a*b));
    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Rectangle obj=new Rectangle();
        obj.rectArea();
        Triangle obj1=new Triangle();
        obj1.triArea();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

```
Rectangle Area:200
Triangle Area:100.0
```

Multiple inheritance

Java does not allow multiple inheritance:

- To reduce the complexity and simplify the language
- To avoid the ambiguity caused by multiple inheritance

For example, Consider a class C derived from two base classes A and B. Class C inherits A and B features. If A and B have a method with same signature, there will be ambiguity to call method of A or B class. It will result in compile time error.

```
class A{
    void msg(){System.out.println("Class A");}
}
class B{
    void msg(){System.out.println("Class B ");}
}
class C extends A,B{//suppose if it were
    Public Static void main(String args[]){
        C obj=new C();
        obj.msg();//Now which msg() method would be invoked?
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

Compile time error

Direct implementation of multiple inheritance is not allowed in Java. But it is achievable using Interfaces. The concept about interface is discussed in chapter.2.7.

Access Control in Inheritance

The following rules for inherited methods are enforced –

- Variables declared public or protected in a superclass are inheritable in subclasses.
- Variables or Methods declared private in a superclass are not inherited at all.
- Methods declared public in a superclass also must be public in all subclasses.
- Methods declared protected in a superclass must either be protected or public in subclasses; they cannot be private.

Example:

```
// Create a superclass
class A{
    int x;           // default specifier
    private int y;   // private to A
```

```
public void set_xy(int a,int b){
    x=a;
    y=b;
}
}
// A's y is not accessible here.
class B extends A{
    public void add(){
        System.out.println("Sum:"+(x+y)); //Error: y has private access in A – not inheritable
    }
}
class Main{
    public static void main(String args[]){
        B obj=new B();
        obj.set_xy(10,20);
        obj.add();
    }
}
```

In this example since y is declared as private, it is only accessible by its own class members. Subclasses have no access to it.

2.2 USING SUPER

The super keyword refers to immediate parent class object. Whenever you create the instance of subclass, an instance of parent class is created implicitly which is referred by super reference variable.

- It can be used to refer immediate parent class instance variable when both parent and child class have member with same name
- It can be used to invoke immediate parent class method when child class has overridden that method.
- super() can be used to invoke immediate parent class constructor.

Use of super with variables:

When both parent and child class have member with same name, we can use super keyword to access member of parent class.

Example:

```
class SuperCls
{
    int x = 20;
}

/* sub class SubCls extending SuperCls */
class SubCls extends SuperCls
{
    int x = 80;
    void display()
    {
        System.out.println("Super Class x: " + super.x); //print x of super class
        System.out.println("Sub Class x: " + x); //print x of subclass
    }
}

/* Driver program to test */
class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        SubCls obj = new SubCls();
        obj.display();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

Super Class x: 20

Sub Class x: 80

In the above example, both base class and subclass have a member x. We could access x of base class in subclass using super keyword.

Use of super with methods:

The super keyword can also be used to invoke parent class method. It should be used if subclass contains the same method as parent class (Method Overriding).

```
class SuperCls
{
    int x = 20;
    void display(){ //display() in super class
        System.out.println("Super Class x: " + x);
    }
}
/* sub class SubCls extending SuperCls */
class SubCls extends SuperCls
{
    int x = 80;
    void display() //display() redefined in sub class – method overriding
    {
        System.out.println("Sub Class x: " + x);
        super.display(); // invoke super class display()
    }
}
/* Driver program to test */
class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        SubCls obj = new SubCls();
        obj.display();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

Sub Class x: 80

Super Class x: 20

In the above example, if we only call method `display()` then, the `display()` of sub class gets invoked. But with the use of `super` keyword, `display()` of superclass could also be invoked.

Use of super with constructors:

The `super` keyword can also be used to invoke the parent class constructor.

Syntax:

```
super();
```

- `super()` if present, must always be the first statement executed inside a subclass constructor.
- When we invoke a `super()` statement from within a subclass constructor, we are invoking the immediate super class constructor

Example:

```
class SuperCls
{
    SuperCls(){
        System.out.println("In Super Constructor");
    }
}

/* sub class SubCls extending SuperCls */
class SubCls extends SuperCls
{
    SubCls(){
        super();
        System.out.println("In Sub Constructor");
    }
}

/* Driver program to test */
class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
```

```
        SubCls obj = new SubCls();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

In Super Constructor

In Sub Constructor

2.3 ORDER OF CONSTRUCTOR INVOCATION

- Constructors are invoked in the order of their derivation
- If a subclass constructor does not explicitly invoke a superclass constructor using `super()` in the first line, the Java compiler automatically inserts a call to the no-argument constructor of the superclass. If the superclass does not have a no-argument constructor, it will generate a compile-time error.

Example:

```
class A
{
    A(){
        System.out.println("A's Constructor");
    }
}

/* sub class B extending A */
class B extends A
{
    B(){
        super();
        System.out.println("B's Constructor");
    }
}

/* sub class C extending B */
class C extends B{
    C(){
        super();
    }
}
```

```
        System.out.println("C's Constructor");
    }
}
/* Driver program to test */
class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        C obj = new C();
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

```
A's Constructor
B's Constructor
C's Constructor
```

Invoking Superclass Parameterized Constructor

To call parameterized constructor of superclass, we must use the super keyword as shown below.

Syntax:

```
super(value);
```

Example:

```
class SuperCls{
    int x;
    SuperCls(int x){
        this.x=x;           // this refers to current invoking object
    }
}
class SubCls extends SuperCls{
    int y;
    SubCls(int x,int y){
```

```
        super(x);                // invoking parameterized constructor of superclass
        this.y=y;
    }
    public void display(){
        System.out.println("x: "+x+" y: "+y);
    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SubCls obj=new SubCls(10,20);
        obj.display();
    }
}
```

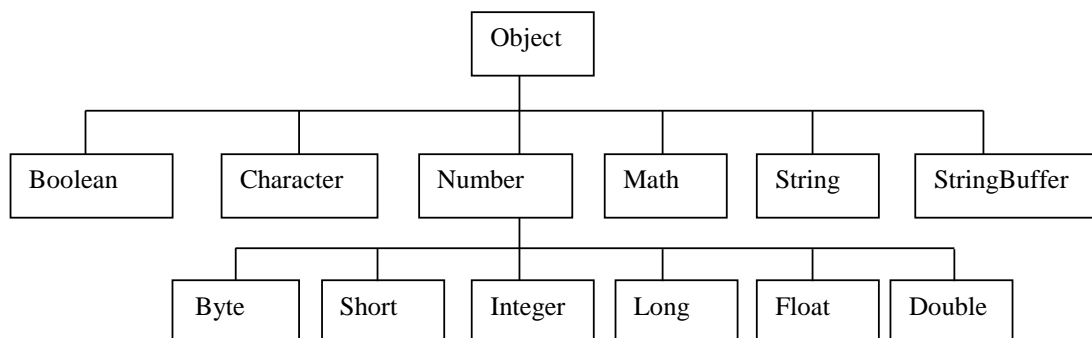
Sample Output:

x: 10 y: 20

The program contains a superclass and a subclass, where the superclass contains a parameterized constructor which accepts a integer value, and we used the super keyword to invoke the parameterized constructor of the superclass.

2.4 THE OBJECT CLASS

The Object class is the parent class of all the classes in java by default (directly or indirectly). The java.lang.Object class is the root of the class hierarchy. Some of the Object class are Boolean, Math, Number, String etc.



Some of the important methods defined in Object class are listed below.

Object class Methods	Description
boolean equals(Object)	Returns true if two references point to the same object.
String toString()	Converts object to String
void notify() void notifyAll() void wait()	Used in synchronizing threads
void finalize()	Called just before an object is garbage collected
Object clone()	Returns a new object that are exactly the same as the current object
int hashCode()	Returns a hash code value for the object.

Example:

```
public class Test
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Test t = new Test();
        System.out.println(t);
        System.out.println(t.toString());    // provides String representation of an Object
        System.out.println(t.hashCode());

        t = null;
        System.gc();    /*calling garbage collector explicitly to dispose system resources, perform
                        clean-up activities and minimize memory leaks*/
        System.out.println("end");
    }

    protected void finalize() // finalize() is called just once on an object
    {
        System.out.println("finalize method called");
    }
}
```

Sample Output:

```
Test@2a139a55
Test@2a139a55
705927765
end
finalize method called
```

In the above program, the default toString() method for class Object returns a string consisting of the name of the class Test of which the object is an instance, the at-sign character '@', and the unsigned hexadecimal representation of the hash code of the object.

2.5 ABSTRACT CLASSES AND METHODS

Abstract class

A class that is declared as abstract is known as **abstract class**. It can have abstract and non-abstract methods (method with body). It needs to be extended and its method implemented. It cannot be instantiated.

Syntax:

```
abstract class classname
{
}
```

Abstract method

A method that is declared as abstract and does not have implementation is known as abstract method. The method body will be defined by its subclass.

Abstract method can never be final and static. Any class that extends an abstract class must implement all the abstract methods declared by the super class.

Note:

A normal class (non-abstract class) cannot have abstract methods.

Syntax:

```
abstract returntype functionname (); //No definition
```

Syntax for abstract class and method:

```
modifier abstract class className
{
    //declare fields
    //declare methods
}
```

```
    abstract dataType methodName();  
}  
modifier class childClass extends className  
{  
    dataType methodName()  
    {  
    }  
}
```

Why do we need an abstract class?

Consider a class `Animal` that has a method `sound()` and the subclasses of it like `Dog`, `Lion`, `Horse`, `Cat` etc. Since the animal sound differs from one animal to another, there is no point to implement this method in parent class. This is because every child class must override this method to give its own implementation details, like `Lion` class will say “Roar” in this method and `Horse` class will say “Neigh”.

So when we know that all the animal child classes will and should override this method, then there is no point to implement this method in parent class. Thus, making this method abstract would be the good choice. This makes this method abstract and all the subclasses to implement this method. We need not give any implementation to this method in parent class.

Since the `Animal` class has an abstract method, it must be declared as abstract.

Now each animal must have a sound, by making this method abstract we made it compulsory to the child class to give implementation details to this method. This way we ensure that every animal has a sound.

Rules

1. Abstract classes are not Interfaces.
2. An abstract class may have concrete (complete) methods.
3. An abstract class may or may not have an abstract method. But if any class has one or more abstract methods, it must be compulsorily labeled abstract.
4. Abstract classes can have Constructors, Member variables and Normal methods.
5. Abstract classes are never instantiated.
6. For design purpose, a class can be declared abstract even if it does not contain any abstract methods.
7. Reference of an abstract class can point to objects of its sub-classes thereby achieving run-time polymorphism Ex: `Shape obj = new Rectangle();`

-
8. A class derived from the abstract class must implement all those methods that are declared as abstract in the parent class.
 9. If a child does not implement all the abstract methods of abstract parent class, then the child class must need to be declared abstract as well.

Example 1

```
//abstract parent class
abstract class Animal
{
    //abstract method
    public abstract void sound();
}
//Lion class extends Animal class
public class Lion extends Animal
{
    public void sound()
    {
        System.out.println("Roars");
    }
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Animal obj = new Lion();
        obj.sound();
    }
}
```

Output:

Roars

In the above code, Animal is an abstract class and Lion is a concrete class.

Example 2

```
abstract class Bank
{
    abstract int getRateOfInterest();
}
class SBI extends Bank
{
    int getRateOfInterest()
    {
        return 7;
    }
}
class PNB extends Bank
{
    int getRateOfInterest()
    {
        return 8;
    }
}
public class TestBank
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Bank b=new SBI();//if object is PNB, method of PNB will be invoked
        int interest=b.getRateOfInterest();
        System.out.println("Rate of Interest is: "+interest+" %");
        b=new PNB();
        System.out.println("Rate of Interest is: "+b.getRateOfInterest()+" %");
    }
}
```

Output:

Rate of Interest is: 7 %

Rate of Interest is: 8 %

Abstract class with concrete (normal) method

Abstract classes can also have normal methods with definitions, along with abstract methods.

Sample Code:

```
abstract class A
{
    abstract void callme();
    public void normal()
    {
        System.out.println("this is a normal (concrete) method.");
    }
}

public class B extends A
{
    void callme()
    {
        System.out.println("this is an callme (abstract) method.");
    }
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        B b = new B();
        b.callme();
        b.normal();
    }
}
```

Output:

this is an callme (abstract) method.

this is a normal (concrete) method.

Observations about abstract classes in Java

1. **An instance of an abstract class cannot be created; But, we can have references of abstract class type though.**

Sample Code:

```
abstract class Base
{
    abstract void fun();
}
class Derived extends Base
{
    void fun()
    {
        System.out.println("Derived fun() called");
    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        // Base b = new Base(); Will lead to error
        // We can have references of Base type.
        Base b = new Derived();
        b.fun();
    }
}
```

Output:

Derived fun() called

2. An abstract class can contain constructors in Java. And a constructor of abstract class is called when an instance of a inherited class is created.

Sample Code:

```
abstract class Base
{
    Base()
    {
        System.out.println("Within Base Constructor");
    }
    abstract void fun();
}
class Derived extends Base
{
    Derived()
    {
        System.out.println("Within Derived Constructor");
    }
    void fun()
    {
        System.out.println(" Within Derived fun()");
    }
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Derived d = new Derived();
    }
}
```

Output:

```
Within Base Constructor
Within Derived Constructor
```

-
- 3. We can have an abstract class without any abstract method. This allows us to create classes that cannot be instantiated, but can only be inherited.**

Sample Code:

```
abstract class Base
{
    void fun()
    {
        System.out.println("Within Base fun()");
    }
}
class Derived extends Base
{
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Derived d = new Derived();
        d.fun();
    }
}
```

Output:

Within Base fun()

- 4. Abstract classes can also have final methods (methods that cannot be overridden).**

Sample Code:

```
abstract class Base
{
    final void fun()
    {
```

```

        System.out.println("Within Derived fun()");
    }
}
class Derived extends Base
{
}
public class Main
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Base b = new Derived();
        b.fun();
    }
}

```

Output:

Within Derived fun()

2.6 FINAL METHODS AND CLASSES

The final keyword in java is used to restrict the user. The java final keyword can be applied to:

- variable
- method
- class

Java final variable	-	To prevent constant variables
Java final method	-	To prevent method overriding
Java final class	-	To prevent inheritance

Figure: Uses of final in java

Java final variable

The final keyword can be applied with the variables, a final variable that have no value it is called blank final variable or uninitialized final variable. It can be initialized in the constructor only. The blank final variable can be static also which will be initialized in the static block only.

Sample Code:

A final variable speedlimit is defined within a class Vehicle. When we try to change the value of this variable, we get an error. This is due to the fact that the value of final variable cannot be changed, once a value is assigned to it.

```
public class Vehicle
{
    final int speedlimit=60;//final variable
    void run()
    {
        speedlimit=400;
    }
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        Vehicle obj=new Vehicle();
        obj.run();
    }
}
```

Output:

```
/Vehicle.java:6: error: cannot assign a value to final variable speedlimit
    speedlimit=400;
    ^
1 error
```

Blank final variable

A final variable that is not initialized at the time of declaration is known as blank final variable. We must initialize the blank final variable in constructor of the class otherwise it will throw a compilation error.

Sample Code:

```
public class Vehicle
{
    final int speedlimit; //blank final variable
    void run()
```

```
{
}
public static void main(String args[])
{
    Vehicle obj=new Vehicle();
    obj.run();
}
}
```

Output:

```
/Vehicle.java:3: error: variable speedlimit not initialized in the default constructor
    final int speedlimit; //blank final variable
            ^
1 error
```

Java Final Method

A Java method with the final keyword is called a final method and it cannot be overridden in the subclass.

In general, final methods are faster than non-final methods because they are not required to be resolved during run-time and they are bonded at compile time.

Sample Code:

```
class XYZ
{
    final void demo()
    {
        System.out.println("XYZ Class Method");
    }
}
public class ABC extends XYZ
{
    void demo()
    {
```

```
        System.out.println("ABC Class Method");
    }
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        ABC obj= new ABC();
        obj.demo();
    }
}
```

Output:

```
/ABC.java:11: error: demo() in ABC cannot override demo() in XYZ
```

```
    void demo()
```

```
        ^
```

```
    overridden method is final
```

```
1 error
```

The following code will run fine as the final method demo() is not overridden. This shows that final methods are inherited but they cannot be overridden.

Sample Code:

```
class XYZ
{
    final void demo()
    {
        System.out.println("XYZ Class Method");
    }
}
public class ABC extends XYZ
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
```

```
    ABC obj= new ABC();  
    obj.demo();  
}  
}
```

Output:

XYZ Class Method

Points to be remembered while using final methods:

- Private methods of the superclass are automatically considered to be final.
- Since the compiler knows that final methods cannot be overridden by a subclass, so these methods can sometimes provide performance enhancement by removing calls to final methods and replacing them with the expanded code of their declarations at each method call location.
- Methods made inline should be small and contain only few lines of code. If it grows in size, the execution time benefits become a very costly affair.
- A final's method declaration can never change, so all subclasses use the same method implementation and call to one can be resolved at compile time. This is known as *static binding*.

Java Final Class

- Final class is a class that cannot be extended i.e. it cannot be inherited.
- A final class can be a subclass but not a superclass.
- Declaring a class as final implicitly declares all of its methods as final.
- It is illegal to declare a class as both abstract and final since an abstract class is incomplete by itself and relies upon its subclasses to provide complete implementations.
- Several classes in Java are final e.g. String, Integer, and other wrapper classes.
- The final keyword can be placed either before or after the access specifier.

Syntax:

```
final public class A  
  
{  
  
    //code  
  
}
```

OR

```
public final class A  
  
{  
  
    //code  
  
}
```

Sample Code:

```
final class XYZ
{
}

public class ABC extends XYZ
{
    void demo()
    {
        System.out.println("My Method");
    }
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        ABC obj= new ABC();
        obj.demo();
    }
}
```

Output:

```
/ABC.java:5: error: cannot inherit from final XYZ
public class ABC extends XYZ
        ^
1 error
```

Important points on final in Java

- Final keyword can be applied to a member variable, local variable, method or class in Java.
- Final member variable must be initialized at the time of declaration or inside the constructor, failure to do so will result in compilation error.
- We cannot reassign value to a final variable in Java.
- The local final variable must be initialized during declaration.
- A final method cannot be overridden in Java.
- A final class cannot be inheritable in Java.

-
- Final is a different than finally keyword which is used to Exception handling in Java.
 - Final should not be confused with finalize() method which is declared in Object class and called before an object is a garbage collected by JVM.
 - All variable declared inside Java interface are implicitly final.
 - Final and abstract are two opposite keyword and a final class cannot be abstract in Java.
 - Final methods are bonded during compile time also called static binding.
 - Final variables which are not initialized during declaration are called blank final variable and must be initialized in all constructor either explicitly or by calling this(). Failure to do so compiler will complain as “final variable (name) might not be initialized”.
 - Making a class, method or variable final in Java helps to improve performance because JVM gets an opportunity to make assumption and optimization.

2.7 INTERFACES

An interface is a reference type in Java. It is similar to class. It is a collection of abstract methods. Along with abstract methods, an interface may also contain constants, default methods, static methods, and nested types. Method bodies exist only for default methods and static methods.

An interface is similar to a class in the following ways:

- An interface can contain any number of methods.
- An interface is written in a file with a .java extension, with the name of the interface matching the name of the file.
- The byte code of an interface appears in a .class file.
- Interfaces appear in packages, and their corresponding bytecode file must be in a directory structure that matches the package name.

Uses of interface:

- Since java does not support multiple inheritance in case of class, it can be achieved by using interface.
- It is also used to achieve loose coupling.
- Interfaces are used to implement abstraction.

Defining an Interface

An interface is defined much like a class.

Syntax:

```
accessspecifier interface interfacename
{
    return-type method-name1(parameter-list);
    return-type method-name2(parameter-list);
    type final-varname1 = value;
    type final-varname2 = value;
    // ...
    return-type method-nameN(parameter-list);
    type final-varnameN = value;
}
```

When no access specifier is included, then default access results, and the interface is only available to other members of the package in which it is declared. When it is declared as public, the interface can be used by any other code.

- The java file must have the same name as the interface.
- The methods that are declared have no bodies. They end with a semicolon after the parameter list. They are abstract methods; there can be no default implementation of any method specified within an interface.
- Each class that includes an interface must implement all of the methods.
- Variables can be declared inside of interface declarations. They are implicitly final and static, meaning they cannot be changed by the implementing class. They must also be initialized.
- All methods and variables are implicitly public.

Sample Code:

The following code declares a simple interface Animal that contains two methods called eat() and travel() that take no parameter.

```
/* File name : Animal.java */
interface Animal {
    public void eat();
    public void travel();
}
```

Implementing an Interface

Once an interface has been defined, one or more classes can implement that interface. To implement an interface, the 'implements' clause is included in a class definition and then the methods defined by the interface are created.

Syntax:

```
class classname [extends superclass] [implements interface [,interface...]]
{
    // class-body
}
```

Properties of java interface

- If a class implements more than one interface, the interfaces are separated with a comma.
- If a class implements two interfaces that declare the same method, then the same method will be used by clients of either interface.
- The methods that implement an interface must be declared public.
- The type signature of the implementing method must match exactly the type signature specified in the interface definition.

Rules

- A class can implement more than one interface at a time.
- A class can extend only one class, but can implement many interfaces.
- An interface can extend another interface, in a similar way as a class can extend another class.

Sample Code 1:

The following code implements an interface Animal shown earlier.

```
/* File name : MammalInt.java */
public class Mammal implements Animal
{
    public void eat()
    {
        System.out.println("Mammal eats");
    }
    public void travel()
```

```
{
    System.out.println("Mammal travels");
}
public int noOfLegs()
{
    return 0;
}
public static void main(String args[])
{
    Mammal m = new Mammal();
    m.eat();
    m.travel();
}
}
```

Output:

Mammal eats

Mammal travels

It is both permissible and common for classes that implement interfaces to define additional members of their own. In the above code, Mammal class defines additional method called noOfLegs().

Sample Code 2:

The following code initially defines an interface 'Sample' with two members. This interface is implemented by a class named 'testClass'.

```
import java.io.*;
// A simple interface
interface Sample
{
    final String name = "Shree";
    void display();
}
```

```
// A class that implements interface.
public class testClass implements Sample
{
    public void display()
    {
        System.out.println("Welcome");
    }
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        testClass t = new testClass();
        t.display();
        System.out.println(name);
    }
}
```

Output:

```
Welcome
Shree
```

Sample Code 3:

In this example, Drawable interface has only one method. Its implementation is provided by Rectangle and Circle classes.

```
interface Drawable
{
    void draw();
}
class Rectangle implements Drawable
{
    public void draw()
    {
        System.out.println("Drawing rectangle");
    }
}
```

```
}  
class Circle implements Drawable  
{  
    public void draw()  
    {  
        System.out.println("Drawing circle");  
    }  
}  
public class TestInterface  
{  
    public static void main(String args[])  
    {  
        Drawable d=new Circle();  
        d.draw();  
    }  
}
```

Output:

Drawing circle

Nested Interface

An interface can be declared as a member of a class or another interface. Such an interface is called a member interface or a nested interface. A nested interface can be declared as public, private, or protected.

Sample Code:

```
interface MyInterfaceA  
{  
    void display();  
    interface MyInterfaceB  
    {  
        void myMethod();  
    }  
}
```

```
}  
public class NestedInterfaceDemo1 implements MyInterfaceA.MyInterfaceB  
{  
    public void myMethod()  
    {  
        System.out.println("Nested interface method");  
    }  
    public static void main(String args[])  
    {  
        MyInterfaceA.MyInterfaceB obj= new NestedInterfaceDemo1();  
        obj.myMethod();  
    }  
}
```

Output:

Nested interface method

Differences between classes and interfaces

Both classes and Interfaces are used to create new reference types. A class is a collection of fields and methods that operate on fields. A class creates reference types and these reference types are used to create objects. A class has a signature and a body. The syntax of class declaration is shown below:

```
class class_Name extends superclass implements interface_1,...interface_n  
    // class signature  
    {  
        //body of class.  
    }
```

Signature of a class has class's name and information that tells whether the class has inherited another class. The body of a class has fields and methods that operate on those fields. A Class is created using a keyword **class**.

When a class is instantiated, each object created contains a copy of fields and methods with them. The fields and members declared inside a class can be static or nonstatic. Static members value is constant for each object whereas, the non-static members are initialized by each object differently according to its requirement.

Members of a class have access specifiers that decide the visibility and accessibility of the members to the user or to the subclasses. The access specifiers are public, private and protected. A class can be inherited by another class using the access specifier which will decide the visibility of members of a superclass (inherited class) in a subclass (inheriting class).

An interface has fully abstract methods (methods with nobody). An interface is syntactically similar to the class but there is a major difference between class and interface that is a class can be instantiated, but an interface can never be instantiated.

An interface is used to create the reference types. The importance of an interface in Java is that, a class can inherit only a single class. To circumvent this restriction, the designers of Java introduced a concept of interface. An interface declaration is syntactically similar to a class, but there is no field declaration in interface and the methods inside an interface do not have any implementation. An interface is declared using a keyword **interface**.

Aspect for comparison	Class	Interface
Basic	A class is instantiated to create objects.	An interface can never be instantiated as the methods are unable to perform any action on invoking.
Keyword	class	Interface
Access specifier	The members of a class can be private, public or protected.	The members of an interface are always public.
Methods	The methods of a class are defined to perform a specific action.	The methods in an interface are purely abstract.
inheritance	A class can implement any number of interfaces and can extend only one class.	An interface can extend multiple interfaces but cannot implement any interface.
Inheritance keyword	extends	implements
Constructor	A class can have constructors to initialize the variables.	An interface can never have a constructor as there is hardly any variable to initialize.
Declaration Syntax	<pre>class class_Name { //fields //Methods }</pre>	<pre>Interface interface_Name { Type var_name=value; Type method1(parameter-list); Type method2(parameter-list); .. }</pre>

The following example shows that a class that implements one interface:

```
public interface interface_example
{
    public void method1();
    public String method2();
}
public class class_name implements interface_example
{
    public void method1()
    {
        ..
    }
    public String method2()
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

Inheritance between concrete (non-abstract) and abstract classes use extends keyword.

It is possible to extend only one class to another. Java does not support multiple inheritance. However, multilevel inheritance i.e., any number of classes in a ladder is possible. For example, in the following code class C extends the class B, where the class B extends class A.

```
class A { }
class B extends A { }
class C extends B { }
```

Inheritance between classes (including abstract classes) and interfaces, use implements keyword.

To support multiple inheritance, it uses interfaces. So after implements keyword, there can be any number of interfaces. For example, in the following code, class B extends only one class A and two interfaces I1 and I2.

```

interface I1 {}
interface I2 {}
class A
class B extends A implements I1, I2
{
}

```

Inheritance between two interfaces, is possible with the use of extends keyword only.

For example, in the following code, interface I2 extends the interface I1.

```

interface I1 { }
interface I2 extends I1 { }

```

2.12 JAVA STRING

In general string is a sequence of characters. String is an object that represents a sequence of characters. The `java.lang.String` class is used to create string object. In java, string is basically an object that represents sequence of char values. An array of characters works same as java string. For example:

Java String class provides a lot of methods to perform operations on string such as `compare()`, `concat()`, `equals()`, `split()`, `length()`, `replace()`, `compareTo()`, `intern()`, `substring()` etc.

The `java.lang.String` class implements *Serializable*, *Comparable* and *CharSequence* interfaces. The *CharSequence* interface is used to represent sequence of characters. It is implemented by `String`, `StringBuffer` and `StringBuilder` classes. It means can create string in java by using these 3 classes.

The string objects can be created using two ways.

1. By String literal
2. By new Keyword

String Literal

Java String literal is created by using double quotes. For Example:

1. `String s="welcome";`

Each time you create a string literal, the JVM checks the string constant pool first. If the string already exists in the pool, a reference to the pooled instance is returned. If string doesn't exist in the pool, a new string instance is created and placed in the pool. For example:

```

String s1="Welcome";
String s2="Welcome";

```

In the above example only one object will be created. Firstly JVM will not find any string object with the value "Welcome" in string constant pool, so it will create a new object. After that it will find the string with the value "Welcome" in the pool, it will not create new object but will return the reference to the same instance. To make Java more memory efficient (because no new objects are created if it exists already in string constant pool).

2. By new keyword

```
String s=new String("Welcome");
```

In such case, JVM will create a new string object in normal (non pool) heap memory and the literal "Welcome" will be placed in the string constant pool. The variable s will refer to the object in heap (non pool).

The java String is immutable i.e. it cannot be changed. Whenever we change any string, a new instance is created. For mutable string, you can use StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes.

The following program explains the creation of strings

```
public class String_Example{
    public static void main(String args[]){
        String s1="java";
        char c[]={'s','t','r','i','n','g'};
        String s2=new String(c);
        String s3=new String("example");
        System.out.println(s1);
        System.out.println(s2);
        System.out.println(s3);
    }
}
```

Java String class methods

The java.lang.String class provides many useful methods to perform operations on sequence of char values.

Method	Description
char charAt(int index)	returns char value for the particular index
int length()	returns string length
static String format(String format, Object... args)	returns formatted string
static String format(Locale l, String format, Object... args)	returns formatted string with given locale
String substring(int beginIndex)	returns substring for given begin index
String substring(int beginIndex, int endIndex)	returns substring for given begin index and end index
boolean contains(CharSequence s)	returns true or false after matching the sequence of char value

static String join(CharSequence delimiter, CharSequence... elements)	returns a joined string
boolean equals(Object another)	checks the equality of string with object
boolean isEmpty()	checks if string is empty
String concat(String str)	concatinates specified string
String replace(char old, char new)	replaces all occurrences of specified char value
String replace(CharSequence old, CharSequence new)	replaces all occurrences of specified CharSequence
static String equalsIgnoreCase(String another)	compares another string. It doesn't check case.
String[] split(String regex)	returns splitted string matching regex
String[] split(String regex, int limit)	returns splitted string matching regex and limit
String intern()	returns interned string
int indexOf(int ch)	returns specified char value index
int indexOf(int ch, int fromIndex)	returns specified char value index starting with given index
int indexOf(String substring)	returns specified substring index
int indexOf(String substring, int fromIndex)	returns specified substring index starting with given index
String toLowerCase()	returns string in lowercase.
String toLowerCase(Locale l)	returns string in lowercase using specified locale.
String toUpperCase()	returns string in uppercase.
String toUpperCase(Locale l)	returns string in uppercase using specified locale.
String trim()	removes beginning and ending spaces of this string.
static String valueOf(int value)	converts given type into string. It is overloaded

The following program is an example for String concat function:

```
class string_method{  
    public static void main(String args[]){  
        String s="Java";
```



```
s=s.concat(" Programming");  
System.out.println(s);  
}  
}
```

Output:

Java Programming