

# Section Review

Learn to Code with Ruby

# Private and Protected Methods

- A **private method** is one that can only be called inside the object (by another method).
- A **protected method** can be called inside the object *or* by an object of the same class.
- Declare the **private** or **protected** keyword in your class definitions and define your instance methods below it.

# Class Methods and Class Variables

- A **class method** is a method that belongs to a class rather than any instance.
- Use class methods for higher-level ideas that extend beyond one specific instance.
- Inside a class, prefix **self** before a method name to declare it as a class method. There is an alternative syntax available as well.
- A **class variable** is a piece of data belonging to a class.
- Declare a **class variable** with the @@ symbol at the top of the class definition.

# Monkey Patching

- Ruby classes are flexible and open to extension.
- **Monkey patching** refers to adding new methods to existing Ruby classes.
- Declare the **class** like you would a custom one and monkey-patch the instance methods inside the definition. The **self** keyword will provide a reference to the instance.
- **Monkey patching** is generally not advised unless you know what you're doing.