

# Java 3.1: Understanding ArrayLists

## 1) In the `Cat` class

- a. Give it the following private instance variables
  - i. `name` (`String`)
  - ii. `weight` (`double`)
- b. Give it getters and setters for both `name` and `weight`.
- c. Give it a `meow()` method, which simply prints out "Meow!".

## 2) Create a new class called `TestCatList`. In the `main()` method:

- a. Create an `ArrayList` called `CatList` that contains `Cat` objects.
- b. Add four `Cat` objects to `CatList`
- c. Give each cat a unique name using the setter (pick your own cat names).
- d. Use an enhanced for loop to give each cat a random weight between 5 and 15.
  - i. `Math.random()` returns a random double number between 0 and 1 (exclusive).
  - ii. That number multiplied by 10 is a number between 0 and 10 (exclusive)
  - iii. Adding 5 to part ii) returns a number between 5 and 15.
- e. Print out each cat's name and weight, and then have it meow on a separate line.

When finished, include both classes in one file and upload it to onCampus in the "ArrayLists: TestCatList" assignment.

## Bonus

- Have a 25% chance of the cat making a different noise when meowing.
- Change the program so that the user can either name the cats themselves or have the program do it itself.
- Change the `meow()` method so that the cat makes a different sound based on its weight. Include three different sounds.

See the other side of this handout for help with syntax.

## Useful syntax

Getters are methods with the explicit purpose of returning a private variable. They have the form

```
public vartype getVarname() {  
    return varname;  
}
```

Where `varname` is the name of the variable being returned, and `vartype` is its type.

Setters are methods with the explicit purpose of assigning a private variable. In the simplest case, they have the form

```
public void setVarname(newValue) {  
    varname = newValue;  
}
```

Where `newValue` is the value that the variable is being assigned to, and the other words have the same meaning as above.

To create an `ArrayList`, specify its type in angled brackets and use the `new` keyword to make a new `ArrayList` object:

```
ArrayList<Dog> dogList = new ArrayList<Dog>();
```

To add a new object to the `ArrayList`, use the `.add()` method:

```
dogList.add(new Dog());
```

This statement creates a new `Dog` object and places it in the list.

To access an element of the list, use the `.get()` method:

```
dogList.get(0);
```

This statement returns the zero-th element of the list, which is the `Dog` object we created above with `new Dog()`.

By accessing an element with `.get()`, you can use it just like you would any other variable, including accessing the object's getters & setters. If our `Dog` class has an instance variable called `Breed` with a corresponding setter, we can set the breed with this statement:

```
dogList.get(0).setBreed("Golden Retriever");
```

The enhanced for loop has the form

```
for (type elementName: listName) {  
    // do something with elementName  
}
```

Here `type` is the type of the array or `ArrayList`; `listName` is the variable name for your array/`ArrayList`; `elementName` is the variable name you use to access the element in `listName` (your array/`ArrayList`).