**What are Lists?**

Lists are used a great deal in programming, and RPA makes no exception. Anytime usernames, employee numbers, invoice numbers and other elements need to be captured, stored or processed, lists can be suitable**. Lists are similar to arrays, one of the main differences being that lists have specific methods for adding and removing elements.** **This means arrays are more suitable in situations where we expect the size of the collection to stay the same**. For example, we can use an array to store the name of each month of the year**. Lists are better suited for situations where we can expect the size of the collection to change during execution.**

**Lists can be used whenever dealing with collections we expect to change in size at runtime. We can use them for usernames, employee numbers, invoice numbers and other elements that need to be captured, stored or processed.**

To start using reference types like Lists and Dictionaries, we need to go through 3 steps: declare, instantiate, and assign the object.

* 1

1

We **declare** a reference variable, say a List of type String. We provide the name, select the type System.Collections.Generic.List<T> and indicate String.

* 2

2

We **instantiate** an object to be assigned as the initial value for the variable. In our case, we want to start with a List of String object which does not contain values, so we use the expression **new List(of String)**.

* 3

3

We **assign** the object to the new variable (or initialize the variable) either by using the Default value in the Variables panel or by using an Assign activity.