

Programming Assignment 8-5

An array allows you to match objects of a particular type with integer indices. For instance, the array ["Harry", "Jim", "Sally"] matches 0 with "Harry", 1 with "Jim", and 2 with "Sally".

Create a class `MyTable` that will allow you to match objects of `String` type with a *character* index (where, for this lab, we will just use the characters 'a' – 'z'). Your class should be able to be used like this:

```
MyTable t = new MyTable();
t.add('a', "Andrew");
t.add('b', "Billy");
t.add('c', "Charlie");
String s = t.get('b');
System.out.println(s);

//output
Billy
```

Implement `MyTable` by creating an inner class `Entry` whose constructor has the following signature:

```
Entry(char c, String s)
```

As an instance variable in `MyTable`, store an array with the following initialization:

```
Entry[] entries = new Entry[26];
```

Each of the 26 `Entry` instances corresponds to one of the lower case characters of the alphabet – 'a' through 'z'.

The `add` method will compute the position in the `entries` array that corresponds to the character passed in, and will create an `Entry` object to place into that position.

For example, if a call

```
add('b', "Billy")
```

is made, the `add` method will compute that 'b' corresponds to position 1 in the `entries` array. It will then create a new `Entry` instance, passing in the pair ('b',"Billy"), and place that new `Entry` instance in position 1 of the `entries` array.

`Entry` and `MyTable` should also each implement a `toString` method

```
public String toString()
```

The `toString` method in `Entry` should join the contents of its character and `String` variables with an arrow, as in the following:

```
a->Andrew
```

The `toString` method of `MyTable` should adjoin the output of repeated calls to the `toString` method of the objects stored in the `Entry[]` array.

Here is an example of how it should look: If the following appears in the `main` method:

```
MyTable t = new MyTable();  
t.add('a', "Andrew");  
t.add('b', "Billy");  
t.add('w', "Willie");  
System.out.println(t);
```

then the output should look like this:

```
a->Andrew  
b->Billy  
w->Willie
```

See the source code directory for this exercise to see shells of the classes you will be creating.