

Unicode Decode Error: 'gbk' codec can't decode byte

CPS2232 Q&A: fail to run `check.py` in Lab1_? [Ava Cong Ye](#); Last Upadate: 2025/ 3/ 16

Question: illgal multibyte sequence

```
***** Compiling Java file: Lab1_1.java *****  
✗ Failed to modify Lab1_1.java: 'gbk' codec can't decode byte 0xaf in position 159: illegal multibyte sequen  
✗ Some checks failed.
```

Answers

If your Java files contain GBK-encoded text, but Python (or Java runtime) expects UTF-8, decoding errors will occur. Follow these instructions:

1. Make sure the Java file is UTF-8 encoded

Convert Chinese characters to English characters.

Check the typical punctuation like `{}` ;

2. Specify the UTF-8 encoding to read the file explicitly in `check.py`.

In `check.py`, make sure that the UTF-8 encoding is explicitly specified when reading the Java file. For example, adding these opeartions in `check.py`:

```
with open('your_file.java', 'r', encoding='utf-8') as file:  
    content = file.read()
```