

## The Java™ Tutorials

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**Trail:** Learning the Java Language

**Lesson:** Language Basics

*The Java Tutorials have been written for JDK 8. Examples and practices described in this page don't take advantage of improvements introduced in later releases.*

### Control Flow Statements

The statements inside your source files are generally executed from top to bottom, in the order that they appear. *Control flow statements*, however, break up the flow of execution by employing decision making, looping, and branching, enabling your program to *conditionally* execute particular blocks of code. This section describes the decision-making statements (`if-then`, `if-then-else`, `switch`), the looping statements (`for`, `while`, `do-while`), and the branching statements (`break`, `continue`, `return`) supported by the Java programming language.

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