Parameters are part of the method definition in Java. They represent the value that is passed into a method.

Parameters allow you to pass data between different methods without creating member variables that are available to the whole class. Instead of using class scope variables you use variables within one method, and you can pass the values that you need to another method. This is done by creating a method and adding parameters to pass some data to the method.

A screen shot of a computer program

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Actual parameters are the parameters that contain the data that need to be worked on and are in the method call. A simpler way to think of actual parameters is to think of them as containing the actual data that will be worked on. Formal parameters are the parameters that are located within the method definition and are what the method uses to do its work. Formal parameters can be thought of as formally part of the definition of the method, they are part of how you define a method.

In the above code I have used Java comments to show actual and formal parameters within a program. You can see in the code that the numInp variable in the main method contains the data that the other methods need to confirm if the value is divisible by 5. The num variable that is a parameter in the output method is a formal parameter, that means that for output to use the value from numInp its using its value but, it’s using a different variable in this case num, to pass to divByFive to confirm if the input is divisible by 5 or not.