

Short Answer:

 Yes — method overriding is a form of *runtime polymorphism*.

Let's break it down

1 Polymorphism means:

“Many forms” — same method name, but different behavior depending on the object.

It's a **broad concept** that can appear in multiple ways (both compile-time and runtime, depending on the language).

2 Method Overriding

When a **child class** defines a method that already exists in its **parent class**, and gives it a new implementation.

So when you call that method on an object, **Python decides at runtime** which version to use (the parent's or the child's).

That's exactly **runtime polymorphism**.

Example

```
class Car:  
    def fuel_type(self):  
        return "Petrol or Diesel"  
  
class ElectricCar(Car):  
    def fuel_type(self):  
        return "Electric Charge"  
  
vehicles = [Car(), ElectricCar()]
```

```
for v in vehicles:  
    print(v.fuel_type())
```

 Output:

Petrol or Diesel
Electric Charge

Here:

- Both objects respond to the same message (`fuel_type()`),
 - But **each behaves differently** → *polymorphism in action*.
-

So in summary

Concept	Description
Polymorphism	The <i>concept</i> — same interface, different behavior.
Method Overriding	A way to <i>implement</i> polymorphism using inheritance.
When it happens	At runtime , when the program decides which version to call.

For contrast — Python also supports:

- **Overloading (compile-time polymorphism)** → same function name, different parameters.
But Python doesn't truly support overloading like Java or C++; it uses *default arguments* or `*args` instead.
-

So yes:

Method overriding is one of the main techniques used to achieve **polymorphism** in Object-Oriented Programming — specifically **runtime polymorphism**.

The `fuel_type()` function in the `ElectricCar` class is **overriding** the one from the `Car` class.

Let's break that down clearly ↴

🧩 Step-by-step Explanation

1 Base class (`Car`)

```
class Car:

    def fuel_type(self):
        return "Petrol or Diesel"
```

This defines the *general behavior* — how a normal car runs.

2 Child class (`ElectricCar`)

```
class ElectricCar(Car):

    def fuel_type(self):
        return "Electric Charge"
```

Here, you define **the same method name**, but with **different behavior**.

This is **method overriding** —
the child class **redefines** the parent's method, replacing it with its own logic.

3 When you call the method

Now when you do:

```
my_tesla = ElectricCar("Tesla", "Model S", "85 kWh")  
print(my_tesla.fuel_type())
```

Python checks:

1. Does `ElectricCar` have a `fuel_type()` method? Yes → it calls that one.
2. If not, it would look in the parent (`Car`).

This lookup order is called the **Method Resolution Order (MRO)**.

You can confirm the overriding:

```
print(ElectricCar.__mro__)
```

Output:

```
(<class '__main__.ElectricCar'>, <class '__main__.Car'>,  
<class 'object'>)
```

This shows Python checks:

1. `ElectricCar`
 2. then `Car`
 3. then `object` (the root base class)
-

In short:

C o n c e p t	Description
---------------------------------	-------------

O
v
e
r
r
i
d
i
n
g When a child class defines a method that already exists in the parent class.

E
f
f
e
c
t The child's version *replaces* the parent's version when called through that child's object.

P
u
r
p
o
s
e To customize or specialize behavior in subclasses.

So yes —

`fuel_type()` is overridden in the `ElectricCar` class.

That's what makes **polymorphism** possible — same method name, but different outputs based on which class's object calls it.

Would you like me to show how `super()` can be used inside the overridden method — to still call the parent's version *alongside* the child's?

Excellent instinct, Suyash 🙌 — you're asking the exact kind of question that separates a beginner from someone who truly understands **OOP design**.

Yes, let's explore that step by step 👇



Example Setup

Let's take our earlier example again:

A base `Car` class and a child `ElectricCar` that overrides a method.

```
class Car:
```

```
    def fuel_type(self):  
        return "Petrol or Diesel"
```

Now, suppose we want the child class to override it but **still reuse** or **extend** the parent's logic — not completely replace it.



Using `super()` inside the overridden method

```
class ElectricCar(Car):
```

```
    def fuel_type(self):
```

```
parent_type = super().fuel_type()    # Call the parent method  
  
return f"{parent_type} – but this one uses Electric Charge"
```

What's happening here:

- `super()` gives you access to the **parent class's methods**.
- You call them **inside** the overridden method.
- It's like saying:

“Do whatever the parent does — then I'll add my own logic on top.”

Example in action

```
my_car = Car()  
  
my_tesla = ElectricCar()  
  
  
print(my_car.fuel_type())  
  
print(my_tesla.fuel_type())
```

Output:

```
Petrol or Diesel  
  
Petrol or Diesel – but this one uses Electric Charge
```

Why use `super()`?

Without `super()`

The child method completely replaces the parent method.

No reuse of parent code.

Risk of code duplication.

With `super()`

The child extends or enhances the parent's behavior.

Promotes **code reuse** and **clean inheritance**.

Keeps hierarchy logical and DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself).

Real-world example

Imagine `Car` has a `start_engine()` method that logs “Engine started.” If `ElectricCar` wants to say “*Engine started silently (electric motor)*”, you’d do:

```
class ElectricCar(Car):

    def start_engine(self):

        super().start_engine()

        print("Engine started silently (electric motor).")
```

That way, **you don't lose the parent's core logic**, you just build on top of it.