

**Code smells** are indicators in your codebase that suggest there might be deeper problems in its structure, design, or implementation. They aren't bugs or errors that cause your code to break; instead, they point to suboptimal practices that can lead to maintenance issues, reduced readability, or increased complexity over time. Identifying and addressing code smells helps in improving code quality and maintainability.

### **Common Examples of Code Smells:**

#### **1. Duplicated Code**

- The same code exists in multiple places.
- *Why it's bad:* Hard to maintain. If a change is needed, it must be updated everywhere.
- Example: Copy-pasting the same logic in multiple functions.

#### **2. Long Method**

- A method does too many things and has grown too large.
- *Why it's bad:* Hard to read, understand, and debug.
- Example: A 200-line function handling multiple unrelated tasks.

#### **3. Large Class**

- A class is overloaded with responsibilities.
- *Why it's bad:* Violates the Single Responsibility Principle, making it harder to maintain and test.
- Example: A User class that handles database operations, business logic, and UI formatting.

#### **4. Feature Envy**

- A method in one class relies heavily on the data or methods of another class.
- *Why it's bad:* Indicates poor cohesion and that functionality might belong elsewhere.
- Example: A Cart class frequently accessing Product attributes instead of delegating tasks to Product.

#### **5. Long Parameter List**

- A function or method requires too many parameters.

- *Why it's bad:* Makes the code harder to understand and prone to errors.
- Example: `calculate_salary(base, bonus, tax, overtime, deductions, hours_worked)`

## 6. Data Clumps

- Related data items frequently appear together but aren't grouped into a structure (e.g., a class).
- *Why it's bad:* Leads to inconsistent handling of the same set of variables.
- Example: Passing x, y, and z coordinates around instead of encapsulating them in a Point object.

## 7. Dead Code

- Unused variables, functions, or code blocks.
- *Why it's bad:* Adds clutter and confusion.
- Example: A function that's defined but never called.

## 8. God Object

- A single object/class that knows too much or does too much.
- *Why it's bad:* Becomes a bottleneck for modifications and testing.
- Example: A Manager class that handles data fetching, UI rendering, and API calls.

## 9. Shotgun Surgery

- A small change in one place forces changes in multiple unrelated parts of the code.
- *Why it's bad:* Indicates tight coupling and lack of modularity.
- Example: Changing the format of a single data field requires updating code in dozens of files.

## 10. Primitive Obsession

- Overuse of basic data types instead of creating more meaningful abstractions.
- *Why it's bad:* Leads to loss of context and increases the chance of errors.
- Example: Using String to represent a phone number instead of a

PhoneNumber class.

### How to Fix Code Smells:

- Refactor your code by applying principles of good software design, like **DRY** (Don't Repeat Yourself), **SOLID**, and **KISS** (Keep It Simple, Stupid).
- Use techniques like:
  - Extract Method (pull out smaller methods from large methods).
  - Introduce Parameter Object (replace long parameter lists with a single object).
  - Move Method (place a method in the class it interacts with most).
  - Replace Conditional with Polymorphism (eliminate large if-else chains).

Code smells aren't inherently "bad," but they are warnings that the code could benefit from improvement. Regular refactoring and adhering to best practices help mitigate code smells.