

Collection vs array

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They are virtually unrelated, except to say they both store a group of values.

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From a capability perspective, while both can store references to objects:



- Arrays can store primitives
- Collections can **not** store primitives (although they can store the primitive wrapper classes, such as `Integer` etc)



One important difference, commonly not understood by programmers new to java, is one of usability and convenience, especially given that Collections automatically expand in size when needed:

- Arrays - Avoid using them unless you *have* to
- Collections - Use them in preference to arrays

Arrays are ultimately the only way of storing a group of primitives/references in one object, but they are the most basic option. Although arrays may give you some speed advantages, unless you *need* super-fast code, Collections are preferred because they have so much convenience.

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