

Python OOP: Access Modifiers, Getter & Setter (Colorful Notes)

Access Modifiers in Python

Type	Syntax	Behavior
Public	<code>self.name</code>	Accessible from anywhere. Default in Python.
Protected	<code>self._age</code>	Convention: internal use. Accessible but discouraged outside class.
Private	<code>self.__age</code>	Name mangling: <code>_ClassName__age</code> . Harder to access directly.

Example:

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self, name, age):
        self.name = name      # public
        self._age = age       # protected
        self.__salary = 5000 # private

p = Person('Zahid', 24)
print(p.name)                # ✅ works
print(p._age)                 # ⚠️ works, not recommended
print(p._Person__salary)     # ✅ access private via name mangling
```

Classic Getter & Setter (Java-like)

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self, name, age):
        self.__age = age     # private

    def get_age(self):
        return self.__age

    def set_age(self, age):
        if age > 0:
            self.__age = age
        else:
            print('Invalid age')

p = Person('Zahid', 24)
print(p.get_age())          # 24
```

```
p.set_age(30)
print(p.get_age()) # 30
```

Pythonic Getter & Setter (@property)

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self, name, age):
        self.__age = age

    # Getter
    @property
    def age(self):
        return self.__age

    # Setter
    @age.setter
    def age(self, value):
        if value > 0:
            self.__age = value
        else:
            print('Invalid age')

p = Person('Zahid', 24)
print(p.age) # ✓ getter (no ())
p.age = 30 # ✓ setter (no ())
print(p.age)
p.age = -5 # Invalid age
```

Key Difference: - **No parentheses** when using `@property` . - Looks like normal attribute access, but method logic runs internally.

Quick Comparison: Java vs Pythonic

Feature	Java	Python (@property)
Access	<code>getAge()</code> , <code>setAge()</code>	<code>person.age</code> , <code>person.age = 30</code>
Private	<code>private int age;</code>	<code>self.__age</code>
Method call	Required <code>()</code>	Not needed
Readability	Less Pythonic	More Pythonic & clean

■ **Tip:** Python trusts developers ("consenting adults" principle). Private/protected are **conventions**, not strict enforcement.