

# Java linked list traversal

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## ✓ Case 1:

```
while (temp != null) {  
    temp = temp.next;  
}
```

📌 **Purpose:** Traverse entire list

🔑 **Loop ends:** when `temp == null`

🎯 **Final `temp`:** `null`

✓ **Correct** — Fully traverses the list, including the last node.

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## ✓ Case 2:

```
while (temp.next != null) {  
    temp = temp.next;  
}
```

📌 **Purpose:** Reach the **last node**

🔑 **Loop ends:** when `temp.next == null`

🎯 **Final `temp`:** points to **last node**

✓ **Correct** — Works safely when list is non-empty.

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## ✓ Case 3:

```
while (temp.next.next != null) {  
    temp = temp.next;  
}
```

📌 **Purpose:** Reach the **second last node**

🔑 **Loop ends:** when `temp.next.next == null`

🎯 **Final `temp`:** points to **second last node**

✓ **Correct for size  $\geq 3$**

⚠️ **Unsafe for size  $< 2$**  (will throw `NullPointerException`)

🛡️ **Safer version:**

```
if (temp != null && temp.next != null) {  
    while (temp.next.next != null) {
```

```
        temp = temp.next;
    }
}
```

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### ✓ Summary Table:

Case	Condition	Final temp	Validity
1	<code>while (temp != null)</code>	null (after last node)	✓ Always safe
2	<code>while (temp.next != null)</code>	Last node	✓ Always safe for non-empty
3	<code>while (temp.next.next != null)</code>	Second last node	✓ For size $\geq 3$ ⚠ Unsafe for size $< 2$

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Agar list me 3+ nodes hain, to tino loops sahi se kaam karenge. bas Case 3 ke liye input check zaroori hai.