Association in java

Association establishes relationship between two **classes** through their **objects**. The relationship can be one to one, one to many, many to one and many to many.

Aggregation in java

Aggregation is a special form of [**association**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/05/association/). It is also a relationship between two classes like association, however it’s a **directional** association, which means it is strictly a **one way association**.

For example consider two classes Student class and Address class. each student must have an address so the relationship between student and address is a Has-A relationship. But if you consider it’s vice versa then it would not make sense as an Address doesn’t need to have a Student necessarily

Association vs Aggregation

**Association** is a relationship between two separate classes which can be of any type say one to one, one to may etc. It joins two entirely separate entities.

[**Aggregation**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/05/aggregation/) is a special form of association which is a unidirectional one way relationship between classes (or entities), for e.g. Wallet and Money classes. Wallet has Money but money doesn’t need to have Wallet necessarily so it’s a one directional relationship. In this relationship both the entries can survive if other one ends. In our example if Wallet class is not present, it does not mean that the Money class cannot exist.