**Inheritance in Java**

**Inheritance**is one of the features of Object-Oriented Programming ([**OOPs**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/04/oops-concepts/)). Inheritance allows a class to use the properties and methods of another class. In other words, the derived class inherits the states and behaviors from the base class. The derived class is also called subclass and the base class is also known as super-class. The derived class can add its own additional variables and methods. These additional variable and methods differentiates the derived class from the base class.

Inheritance is a [**compile-time**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/04/runtime-compile-time-polymorphism/) mechanism. A super-class can have any number of subclasses. But a subclass can have only one superclass. This is because Java does not support multiple inheritance.

**Types of inheritance**

[**Multilevel inheritance**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/12/multilevel-inheritance-in-java-with-example/)

[**Multiple inheritance**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/05/java-multiple-inheritance/)

**[Hierarchical inheritance](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/10/hierarchical-inheritance-java-program/" \t "_blank)**