

What Are Classes, Objects, and Methods?

Java objects' state and behavior

In Java, instances of a class are known as objects. Every object has state and behavior in the form of instance fields and methods respectively.

```
public class Person {  
    // state of an object  
    int age;  
    String name;  
  
    // behavior of an object  
    public void set_value() {  
        age = 20;  
        name = "Robin";  
    }  
    public void get_value() {  
        System.out.println("Age is " + age);  
        System.out.println("Name is " + name);  
    }  
  
    // main method  
    public static void main(String [] args) {  
        // creates a new Person object  
        Person p = new Person();  
  
        // changes state through behavior  
        p.set_value();  
    }  
}
```

Java instance

Java instances are objects that are based on classes. For example, Bob may be an instance of the class Person.

Every instance has access to its own set of variables which are known as *instance fields*, which are variables declared within the scope of the instance. Values for instance fields are assigned within the constructor method.

```
public class Person {  
    int age;  
    String name;  
  
    // Constructor method  
    public Person(int age, String name) {  
        this.age = age;  
        this.name = name;  
    }  
}
```

```

    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Person Bob = new Person(31, "Bob");
        Person Alice = new Person(27, "Alice");
    }
}

```

Java dot notation

In Java programming language, we use `.` to access the variables and methods of an object or a Class. This is known as *dot notation* and the structure looks like this-

instanceOrClassName.fieldOrMethodName

```

public class Person {
    int age;

    public static void main(String [] args) {
        Person p = new Person();

        // here we use dot notation to set age
        p.age = 20;

        // here we use dot notation to access
        age and print
        System.out.println("Age is " + p.age);
        // Output: Age is 20
    }
}

```

Constructor Method in Java

Java classes contain a *constructor* method which is used to create instances of the class. The constructor is named after the class. If no constructor is defined, a default empty constructor is used.

```

public class Maths {
    public Maths() {
        System.out.println("I am constructor");
    }

    public static void main(String [] args) {
        System.out.println("I am main");
        Maths obj1 = new Maths();
    }
}

```

Creating a new Class instance in Java

In Java, we use the `new` keyword followed by a call to the class constructor in order to create a new *instance* of a class.

The constructor can be used to provide initial values to instance fields.

```

public class Person {
    int age;

    // Constructor:
    public Person(int a) {
        age = a;
    }
}

```

```

    }

    public static void main(String [] args) {
        // Here, we create a new instance of
the Person class:
        Person p = new Person(20);
        System.out.println("Age is " + p.age);
// Prints: Age is 20
    }
}

```

Reference Data Types

A variable with a reference data type has a value that references the memory address of an instance. During variable declaration, the class name is used as the variable's type.

```

public class Cat {
    public Cat() {
        // instructions for creating a Cat
instance
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // garfield is declared with reference
data type `Cat`
        Cat garfield = new Cat();
        System.out.println(garfield); //
Prints: Cat@76ed5528
    }
}

```

Constructor Signatures

A class can contain multiple constructors as long as they have different parameter values. A signature helps the compiler differentiate between the different constructors.

A signature is made up of the constructor's name and a list of its parameters.

```

// The signature is `Cat(String furLength,
boolean hasClaws)`.
public class Cat {
    String furType;
    boolean containsClaws;

    public Cat(String furLength, boolean
hasClaws) {
        furType = furLength;
        containsClaws = hasClaws;
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Cat garfield = new Cat("Long-hair",
true);
    }
}

```

null Values

`null` is a special value that denotes that an object has a void reference.

```
}
}
```

```
public class Bear {
    String species;

    public Bear(String speciesOfBear;) {
        species = speciesOfBear;
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Bear baloo = new Bear("Sloth bear");
        System.out.println(baloo); // Prints:
Bear@4517d9a3
        // set object to null
        baloo = null;
        System.out.println(baloo); // Prints:
null
    }
}
```

The body of a Java method

In Java, we use curly brackets `{}` to enclose the body of a method.

The statements written inside the `{}` are executed when a method is called.

```
public class Maths {
    public static void sum(int a, int b) { //
Start of sum
        int result = a + b;
        System.out.println("Sum is " + result);
    } // End of sum

    public static void main(String [] args) {
        // Here, we call the sum method
        sum(10, 20);
        // Output: Sum is 30
    }
}
```

Method parameters in Java

In java, parameters are declared in a method definition. The parameters act as variables inside the method and hold the value that was passed in. They can be used inside a method for printing or calculation purposes.

```
public class Maths {
    public int sum(int a, int b) {
        int k = a + b;
        return k;
    }
}
```

In the example, a and b are two parameters which, when the method is called, hold the value 10 and 20 respectively.

```
}

public static void main(String [] args) {
    Maths m = new Maths();
    int result = m.sum(10, 20);
    System.out.println("sum is " + result);
    // prints - sum is 30
}
}
```

Java Variables Inside a Method

Java variables defined inside a method cannot be used outside the scope of that method.

//For example, `i` and `j` variables are available in the `main` method only:

```
public class Maths {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        int i, j;
        System.out.println("These two variables
are available in main method only");
    }
}
```

Returning info from a Java method

A Java method can return any value that can be saved in a variable. The value returned must match with the return type specified in the method signature.

The value is returned using the `return` keyword.

```
public class Maths {

    // return type is int
    public int sum(int a, int b) {
        int k;
        k = a + b;

        // sum is returned using the return
keyword
        return k;
    }

    public static void main(String [] args) {
        Maths m = new Maths();
        int result;
        result = m.sum(10, 20);
        System.out.println("Sum is " + result);
        // Output: Sum is 30
    }
}
```

}

}

Declaring a Method

Method declarations should define the following method information: scope (private or public), return type, method name, and any parameters it receives.

```
// Here is a public method named sum whose  
return type is int and has two int  
parameters a and b  
public int sum(int a, int b) {  
    return(a + b);  
}
```