



# Overriding

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Reimplementing the inherited method from the parent class in the child class is called **Overriding in Java**.

There are certain **rules for overriding**, the below code points out all of the rules:

```
1  class Animal {
2
3      private void drink() {
4          System.out.println("Animal Drink");
5      }
6
7      public void eat() {
8          System.out.println("Animal Eat");
9      }
10
11     protected void walk() {
12         System.out.println("Animal Walk");
13     },
14 }
```

```

13     }
14
15     public void run() {
16         System.out.println("Animal Run");
17     }
18
19     public void sleep() throws IOException {
20         System.out.println("Animal Sleep");
21     }
22
23     public Animal getAnimal() {
24         return new Animal();
25     }
26 }
27
28 class Horse extends Animal {
29
30     private void drink() { // Not a method override as drink()
31                           // wasn't inherited by Horse class
32         System.out.println("Horse Drink");
33     }
34
35     private void eat() { // You can't use a more
36                         // restrictive access modifier
37                         // (gives you a compiler error)
38         System.out.println("Horse Eat");
39     }
40
41     public void walk() { // Valid method override as you can use less restrictive
42                         // access modifier in the overriding method
43         System.out.println("Horse Walk");
44     }
45
46
47     public void run(int n) { // Not a method override (argument list differs)
48                             // but rather a method overload of run() in Animal
49         System.out.println("Horse Run");
50     }
51
52     public Horse getAnimal() { // Valid method override as return type must
53                               // be the same as, or a subtype of, the return type
54                               // declared in the original overridden method in the supercl
55         return new Horse();
56     }

```

```

57
58     public void eat() throws Exception {    // Invalid method override as the overridden meth
59                                             // throw any checked exceptions while overriding
60                                             // (gives a compiler error)
61         System.out.println("Horse Eat");
62     }
63
64     public void sleep() throws FileSystemException {    // Valid method override as FileSyste
65                                                         // is a subclass of IOException
66         System.out.println("Horse Sleep");
67     }
68
69     public void sleep() {                                // Valid method override as it isn't mandat
70                                                         // the overridden method to throw any excep
71         System.out.println("Horse Sleep");
72     }
73
74     public void sleep() throws Exception {    // Invalid method override as Exception is neith
75                                             // same as nor a subclass of IOException
76                                             // (gives a compiler error)
77         System.out.println("Horse Sleep");
78     }
79 }
80
81 public class Overriding {
82
83     public static void main (String [] args) {
84         Animal a = new Animal();
85         Animal b = new Horse();    // Animal ref, but a Horse object
86
87         a.eat();    // Runs the Animal version of eat()
88         b.eat();    // Runs the Horse version of eat()
89                     // (Concept called Dynamic method invocation)
90
91     }
92 }

```

Some more rules which may be obvious:

- You cannot override a method marked `final`.
- You cannot override a method marked `static`.
- If a method can't be inherited, you cannot override it. As said earlier, overriding implies that you're reimplementing a method you inherited.

**Dynamic Method Invocation:** Overridden instance methods are dynamically invoked based on the real object's type rather than the reference type. For example, `b.eat()` will actually run the Horse version of `eat()`.

## Q&A

**Q1.** Will the below code compile?

```
1  class Animal {
2      public void eat() throws Exception {
3          // throws an Exception
4      }
5  }
6
7  class Dog extends Animal {
8      public void eat() { /* no Exceptions */}
9
10     public static void main(String[] args) {
11         Animal a = new Dog();
12         Dog d = new Dog();
13         d.eat();
14         a.eat();
15     }
16 }
```

---

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Amit Satpathy — Ram, it's really great to find your short and precise writeups on tech. Keep up the passion.