Coding Cheat Sheet

This reading provides a reference list of code you'll encounter as you work with object-oriented coding in Java. Understanding these concepts will help you write and debug your first Java programs. Let's explore the following Java coding concepts:

- Inheritance in Java
- Polymorphism in Java
- · Interfaces and abstract classes in Java
- Inner classes in Java

Keep this summary reading available as a reference as you progress through your course, and refer to this reading as you begin coding with Java after this course!

Inheritance in Java

Creating a superclass

Description	Example
Create a superclass named Animal, which serves as a base class for other classes that might inherit from it.	class Animal {
Define a String variable name to store the name of the animal.	String name;
Include a method eat() to print the message that the animal is eating.	void eat() {
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function. The animal name is displayed dynamically.	System.out.println(name + " is eating.");
Close curly braces to end the Animal class definition.	}

Creating a subclass

Description	Example
The Dog class inherits from the Animal class, meaning it automatically gets all properties and methods from Animal.	class Dog extends Animal {

Description	Example
	void bark() {
Include a method bark() to print the message that the dog is barking.	
	System.out.println(name + " says woof!");
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function. The animal name is displayed dynamically.	
dynamicany.	
	}
	,
Close curly braces to end the Animal class definition.	

Using inheritance

Description	Example
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Creates an instance of the Dog class. The Dog class inherits from the Animal class.	Dog myDog = new Dog();
Assigns "Buddy" to the name variable inherited from Animal.	myDog.name = "Buddy";
Calls the eat() method from the Animal class, which prints "Buddy is eating.".	<pre>myDog.eat();</pre>

Description	Example
	myDog.bark();
Calls the bark() method from the Dog class, which prints "Buddy says woof!".	
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	

Using multilevel inheritance

Description	Example
The Puppy class inherits from the Dog class. Since Dog already inherits from Animal, Puppy indirectly inherits all properties and methods from Animal as well.	class Puppy extends Dog {
This method adds a new behavior specific to the Puppy class.	void weep() {
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function. The animal name is displayed dynamically.	System.out.println(name + " is weeping.");
Close curly braces to end the Puppy class definition.	}

 $\textbf{Explanation:} \ \ \textbf{This is an example of multilevel inheritance.} \ \ \textbf{Animal (Superclass)} \rightarrow \textbf{Dog (Subclass)} \rightarrow \textbf{Puppy (Subclass of Dog)}. \ \ \textbf{The Animal class has attribute name and method eat()}. \ \ \textbf{The Dog class inherits from Animal and adds the bark() method.} \ \ \textbf{Puppy inherits from Dog and adds the weep() method.}$

Using hierarchical inheritance

Description	Example
The Cat class inherits from the Animal class. Since Animal contains the name variable and eat() method, Cat inherits those properties.	class Cat extends Animal {
This method adds a new behavior specific to the Cat class.	void meow() {
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function. The animal name is displayed dynamically.	System.out.println(name + " says meow!");
Close curly braces to end the Cat class definition.	}

Explanation: This is an example of hierarchical inheritance because multiple subclasses (Dog and Cat) inherit from the same superclass (Animal). Animal has attribute name and method eat(). Dog and Cat inherit from Animal, but each adds unique behaviors. Dog adds the bark() method and Cat adds the meow() method.

Method overriding

Description	Example
Create a superclass named Animal, which serves as a base class for other classes that might inherit from it.	class Animal {
Include a sound() method. This method is meant to be overridden by subclasses that define more specific behavors.	void sound() {
Print the message "Animal makes a sound" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	System.out.println("Animal makes a sound");
Close curly braces to end the Animal class definition.	}

Description	Example	
Description		Example
The Dog class inherits from the Animal class.		class Dog extends Animal {
Dog overrides the sound() method to provide a specific implementation: "Dog barks". The @Override and tells the compiler that this method replaces the sound() method from Animal.	notation	@Overnide
Include a sound() method to print the message "Dog barks".		void sound() {
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function.		System.out.println("Dog barks");
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.		}
Explanation: In this example, Dog provides its own implementation of sound(), replacing the one in Anima implementation of a method already defined in its superclass. The method in the subclass must have the sa	1. Method ov me name, re	verriding occurs when a subclass provides a specific turn type, and parameters as the method in the

superclass.

Using overridden methods

Description	Example
	public class Main {
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	

Description	Example
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Creates an instance of Animal and stores it in a variable myAnimal.	Animal myAnimal = new Animal();
The Dog object is stored in an Animal reference. Since Dog overrides the sound() method, Java uses dynamic method dispatch to call the overridden method in Dog, not in Animal.	Animal myDog = new Dog();
Since myAnimal is a regular Animal object, calling myAnimal.sound() executes the sound() method from the Animal class.	myAnimal.sound();
Since myDog refers to a Dog object (even though it's declared as Animal), it calls the overridden sound() method in Dog due to polymorphism.	myDog.sound();
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	}

Explanation: The Dog class inherits from Animal, meaning it gets all non-private properties and methods of Animal. Dog overrides the sound() method from Animal, providing a more specific implementation. Even though myDog is declared as an Animal, Java determines the method to call at runtime, not compile time. When calling myDog.sound(), Java looks at the actual object type (Dog) and calls sound() from Dog, not Animal.

Polymorphism in Java

Compile-time polymorphism

Description	Example
Create a class MathOperations that contains multiple methods for performing addition.	class MathOperations {

Description	Example
Include an add method that accepts two int values (a and b).	int add(int a, int b) {
Add the values of a and b and return the sum to the calling method as an int.	return a + b;
Close curly braces to end the method.	}
Include an add method that accepts three int values (a, b, and c).	int add(int a, int b, int c) {
Add the values of a, b, and c and return the sum to the calling method as an int. This method overloads the first add() method because it has different number of parameters.	return a + b + c;
Close curly braces to end the method.	}
Include an add method that accepts two double values (a and b).	int add(double a, double b) {
Add the values of a and b and return the sum to the calling method as a double. This method overloads both of the previous add() methods, but it works with double values instead of int.	return a + b;

Description	Example
Close curly braces to end the method and the MathOperations class definition.	} }
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Create an instance of the MathOperations class and assign it to the math object.	MathOperations math = new MathOperations();
Calls the method add(int a, int b) to add two integers (2 + 3) and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 2 and 3: " + math.add(2, 3));
Calls the method add(int a, int b, int c) to add three integers $(2+3+4)$ and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 2, 3 and 4: " + math.add(2, 3, 4));
Calls the method add(double a, double b) to add two double values (2.5 + 3.5) and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 2.5 and 3.5: " + math.add(2.5, 3.5));
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	}

Explanation: The add() method is overloaded three times in the MathOperations class. Different number of parameters (int a, int b) versus (int a, int b, int c) and different types of parameters (int versus double). In Java, overloading is based on the method signature, which includes the number and types of parameters. It does not depend on the return type. The correct method is selected at compile time based on the arguments passed to the add() method. This is an example of compile-time polymorphism (or static polymorphism).

Using compile-time polymorphism

Description	Example
Create a class MathOperations that contains multiple methods for performing addition.	class MathOperations {
Include an add method that accepts two int values (a and b).	int add(int a, int b) {
Add the values of ${\tt a}$ and ${\tt b}$ and return the sum to the calling method as an int.	return a + b;
Close curly braces to end the method.	}
Include an add method that accepts two double values (a and b).	int add(double a, double b) {
Add the values of a and b and return the sum to the calling method as a double. This method overloads both of the previous add() methods, but it works with double values instead of int.	return a + b;
Close curly braces to end the method.	}
Include an add method that accepts three int values (a, b, and c).	int add(int a, int b, int c) {

Description	Example
Add the values of a, b, and c and return the sum to the calling method as an int. This method overloads the first add() method because it has different number of parameters.	return a + b + c;
Close curly braces to end the method and the MathOperations class definition.	}
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Create an instance of the MathOperations class and assign it to the math object.	MathOperations math = new MathOperations();
Calls the method add(int a, int b) to add two integers $(2+3)$ and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 2 and 3: " + math.add(2, 3));
Calls the method $add(double\ a,\ double\ b)$ to add two double values $(2.5+3.5)$ and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 2.5 and 3.5: " + math.add(2.5, 3.5));
Calls the method add(int a, int b, int c) to add three integers $(2+3+4)$ and print the result to the console.	System.out.println("Sum of 1, 2 and 3: " + math.add(2, 3, 4));

Description	Example
	}
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	

Explanation: In this example, the MathOperations class has three overloaded add methods. Depending on the number and type of arguments passed to add, Java determines which method to invoke at compile time. This makes our code more flexible and easier to read.

Using runtime polymorphism

Osing runtime polymorphism			
Description	Example		
Create a superclass named Animal, which serves as a base class for other classes that might inherit from it.	clas:	s Animal {	
Include a sound() method. This method is meant to be overridden by subclasses that define more specific behavors.	,	void sound() {	
Print the message "Animal makes a sound" to the console using the System.out.println() function.		System.out.println("Animal makes a sound");	
Close curly braces to end the Animal class definition.	}	}	
Description		Example	
The Dog class inherits from the Animal class.		class Dog extends Animal {	
Dog overrides the sound() method to provide a specific implementation: "Dog barks". The @Override and tells the compiler that this method replaces the sound() method from Animal.	notation	@Override	

Description	Example
	void sound() {
Include a sound() method to print the message "Dog barks".	
	<pre>System.out.println("Dog barks");</pre>
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function.	
	}
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.	
Description	Example
	class Cat extends Animal {
The Cat class inherits from the Animal class.	
	@Override
Cat overrides the sound() method to provide a specific implementation: "Cat meows". The @Override annotation tells the compiler that this method replaces the sound() method from Animal.	
	<pre>void sound() {</pre>
Include a sound() method to print the message "Cat meows".	
	Cton out mintle/"Cot mag. a").
	<pre>System.out.println("Cat meows");</pre>
District and the second	
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function.	
Close curly braces to end the Cat class definition.	}
	}

Description		Example		
Description	Exa	ample		
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.		public class Main {		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.		<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>		
		Animal myAnimal = new Animal();		
Creates an instance of Animal and stores it in a variable myAnimal.				
		<pre>myAnimal = new Dog();</pre>		
The Dog object is stored in an Animal reference. Since Dog overrides the sound() method, Java uses dynamic method dispatch to call the overridden method in Dog, not in Animal.				
		<pre>myAnimal.sound();</pre>		
Since myAnimal is a regular Animal object, calling myAnimal.sound() executes the sound() method from the Animal class.				
The Cat object is stored in an Animal reference. Since Cat overrides the sound() method, Java uses dynamic method dispatch to call the overridden method in Cat, not in Animal.		<pre>myAnimal = new Cat();</pre>		
		myAnimal.sound();		
Since myAnimal is a regular Animal object, calling myAnimal.sound() executes the sound() method from the Animal class.				
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.		}		

Description	Example

Explanation: In this example, Animal is a superclass with a method called sound(). Both Dog and Cat classes extend Animal, providing their own implementation of the sound() method. When we create an Animal reference and assign it to different subclasses (Dog and Cat), the appropriate sound() method is called at runtime based on the object type. This allows for more dynamic and flexible code.

Creating virtual methods

Description	Example
Create a superclass named Animal, which serves as a base class for other classes that might inherit from it.	class Animal {
Include a sound() method. This method is meant to be overridden by subclasses that define more specific behavors.	void sound() {
Print the message "Animal makes a sound" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	System.out.println("Animal makes a sound");
Close curly braces to end the Animal class definition.	}
Description	Example
The Dog class inherits from the Animal class.	class Dog extends Animal {
Dog overrides the sound() method to provide a specific implementation: "Dog barks". The @Override and tells the compiler that this method replaces the sound() method from Animal.	
Include a sound() method to print the message "Dog barks".	void sound() {

Description		Example
		<pre>System.out.println("Dog barks");</pre>
Print the message to the console using the System.out.println() function.		
		}
		,
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.		
constraints to the me sold their extransion.		
Description	Exa	public class Main {
		public class main (
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.		
		131 111 11 11 11 11 11 11
		<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for		
execution in Java programs.		
		Animal myAnimal = new Dog();
Creates an instance of Animal and stores it in a variable myAnimal.		
		<pre>myAnimal.sound();</pre>
Since myAnimal is a regular Animal object, calling myAnimal.sound() executes the sound() method from the		
Animal class.		
		}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.		

 $\textbf{Explanation:} \ In \ this \ example, \ even \ though \ \textit{myAnimal} \ is \ an \ \textit{Animal}, \ the \ \textit{sound()} \ method \ from \ the \ \textit{Dog} \ class \ is \ called, \ demonstrating \ virtual \ method \ behavior.$

Designing interfaces and abstract classes

Creating an interface

Description		Example
Declare an Animal interface.		interface Animal {
Include a method sound(). Any class that implements this interface must provide an implementation of sound().		void sound();
Close curly braces to end the interface definition.		}
Description	Example	
Create a Dog class that implements the Animal interface.	class Dog implem	
Include a sound() method for the class.	public void	sound() {
Calling sound() prints "Bark" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	System.o	ut.println("Bark");
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.	}	

Description	Example
Create a Cat class that implements the Animal interface.	class Cat implements Animal {
	<pre>public void sound() {</pre>
Include a sound() method for the class.	
Calling sound() prints "Meow" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	System.out.println("Meow");
Close curly braces to end the Cat class definition.	}
Description	Example
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Create the Dog object and assign it to the variable dog.	Animal dog = new Dog();
Create the Cat object and assign it to the variable cat.	Animal cat = new Cat();

Description	Example
	dog.sound();
Call sound() on the dog object. This prints the message "Bark".	
	cat.sound();
Call sound() on the cat object. This prints the message "Meow".	
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	

Explanation: In this example, we define an interface Animal with a method sound(). The Dog and Cat classes implement the Animal interface and provide their own versions of the sound() method. In the Main class, we create instances of Dog and Cat, calling the sound() method on each to demonstrate polymorphism.

Creating an abstract class

Description	Example
Create an abstract class Shape that cannot be instantiated directly.	abstract class Shape {
Include an abstract method draw() that must be implemented by any subclass.	abstract void draw();
Include a concrete method display() that has a default implementation.	void display() {
Calling the display() method prints "This is a shape." to the console using the System.out.println() function.	System.out.println("This is a shape.");

Description	Example
	}
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.	
Description	Example
	class Circle extends Shape {
Create a Circle class that extends the Shape class.	
	public void draw() {
Include a draw() method for the class.	
	System.out.println("Drawing Circle");
Calling the draw() method prints "Drawing Circle" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	
	}
Close curly braces to end the Dog class definition.	
Description	Example
	public class Main {
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	
	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
	poorie statie void main(string[] args) {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for	
execution in Java programs.	
The shape object is instantiated from the Shape class but it refers to a Circle object.	Shape shape = new Circle();

Description	Example
	shape.draw();
Calling draw() on the shape object prints "Drawing Circle".	
	shape.display();
Calling display() on the shape object prints "This is a shape."	
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	

Explanation: In this example, we define an abstract class Shape with an abstract method draw() and a concrete method display(). The Circle class extends the Shape class and provides an implementation for the draw() method. In the Main class, we create an instance of Circle using the Shape reference type to show how it works. The draw() method executes the overridden version from Circle. The display() method is inherited from Shape and is called as is.

Inner classes in Java

Creating inner classes

Description	Example
Create an OuterClass that works as a container for the inner class.	class OuterClass {
Set the value of the int outerVariable to 10.	int outerVariable = 10;
Create a classs InnerClass inside the OuterClass.	class InnerClass {
Include a method display() that accesses OuterVariable from the outer class. Inner classes have direct access to the outer class's members (including private ones).	<pre>void display();</pre>

System.out.println("Outer variable value: " + outerVariable	e);
nethod prints the outerVariable value to the console intln() function. The outerVariable value is generated	
}	
}	
d the OuterClass class definition.	
d the OuterClass class definition.	

Explanation: In this example, OuterClass contains a variable outerVariable. InnerClass is defined inside OuterClass and has a method display(). This method can access outerVariable directly.

Using inner classes

Description	Example
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Create an instance of the OuterClass. This is necessary because non-static inner classes require an instance of the outer class to be created first.	OuterClass outer = new OuterClass();
Create a classs InnerClass inside the OuterClass. Since InnerClass is a non-static inner class, it must be created using an instance of OuterClass.	OuterClass.InnerClass inner = outer.new InnerClass();
Call the display() method inside InnerClass.	inner.display();

Description	Example
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	
Close curry braces to that the main class definition.	

Explanation: In this example, InnerClass is nested inside OuterClass and has access to all outer class's members. The display() method will print the value of the outerVariable. The code demonstrates encapsulation in Java.

Creating a static nested classes

Description	Example
	class OuterClass {
Create an OuterClass that works as a container for the inner class.	
	static int staticVariable = 20;
Set the value of the int outerVariable to 20.	
	static class StaticNestedClass {
Create a classs InnerClass inside the OuterClass.	
	void show();
Include a method show() that accesses OuterVariable from the outer class. Inner classes have direct access to the outer class's members (including private ones).	
	System.out.println("Static variable value: " + staticVariable);
Calling the show() method prints the outerVariable value to the console using the System.out.println() function. The outerVariable value is generated dynamically.	

Description	Example
Close curly braces to end the OuterClass class definition.	} }

Explanation: In this example, OuterClass contains a static variable named staticVariable with a value of 20. Since the variable is static, it belongs to the class itself rather than an instance. Static nested classes do not require an instance of the outer class. It can access staticVariable without an instance of OuterClass. The nested class keeps related logic inside OuterClass, improving organization.

Using a static nested classes

Description	Example
A Java class named Main with a main method. The main method is the entry point of the program.	public class Main {
The main method is declared using public static void main(String[] args). This method is required for execution in Java programs.	<pre>public static void main(String[] args) {</pre>
Create an instance of StaticNestedClass inside the OuterClass.	OuterClass.StaticNestedClass nested = new OuterClass.StaticNestedClass();
Include a method nested.show() that prints the value of the staticVariable from OuterClass.	nested.show();
Close curly braces to end the OuterClass class definition.	} }

Creating a method-local inner class

Description	Example
Create an OuterClass with a method myMethod() that will define and use a method-local inner class.	<pre>class OuterClass { void myMethod() {</pre>

Description	Example
Define a class MethodLocalInner inside myMethod(). MethodLocalInner is local to the method, meaning that it cannot be accessed outside of myMethod(). Calling MethodLocalInner prints the message "Inside Method Local Inner Class" to the console using the System.out.println() function.	<pre>class MethodLocalInner { void display() { System.out.println("Inside Method Local Inner Class"); } }</pre>
The inner class is instantiated within the method where it is defined.	<pre>MethodLocalInner inner = new MethodLocalInner();</pre>
inner.display() calls the display() method, printing "Inside Method Local Inner Class".	inner.display();
Close curly braces to end the OuterClass class definition.	}

Creating an anonymous inner class

Description	Example
The Greeting interface defines a single method greet(), which must be implemented by any class that uses this interface.	<pre>interface Greeting { void greet(); }</pre>
This creates an anonymous inner class that implements the Greeting interface. The anonymous class provides an implementation for the greet() method at the moment of object creation.	<pre>public class Main { public static void main(String[] args) { Greeting greeting = new Greeting() { public void greet() { System.out.println("Hello from Anonymous Inner Class!"); } }; }</pre>

Description	Example
This calls the overridden greet() method in the anonymous inner class, printing "Hello from Anonymous Inner Class!".	greeting.greet();
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	}

Using inner classes in the real world

Description	Example
The Library class represents a library and has a private variable libraryName to store its name. A constructor initializes libraryName.	<pre>class Library { private String libraryName; public Library(String name) { this.libraryName = name; }</pre>
Nested inside Library, this class represents a book. It has two private attributes: title and author. The Book class has a constructor to initialize these attributes. The displayBookInfo() method prints the book's title and author. It also accesses libraryName from Library, demonstrating how inner classes can access private members of the outer class.	<pre>class Book { private String title; private String author; public Book(String title, String author) { this.title = title; this.author = author; } public void displayBookInfo() { System.out.println("Library: " + libraryName); System.out.println("Book Title: " + title); System.out.println("Author: " + author); } }</pre>
This creates a Library instance named "City Library" and creates a Book instance associated with that library. Since Book is a non-static inner class, it must be created using an instance of Library. The displayBookInfo() method in the Book inner class prints out the name of the library along with the book's title and author.	<pre>public class Main { public static void main(String[] args) { Library myLibrary = new Library("City Library"); Library.Book myBook = myLibrary.new Book("1984", "George Orwell"); myBook.displayBookInfo();</pre>

Description	Example
	}
Close curly braces to end the Main class definition.	

Author(s)

Ramanujam Srinivasan Lavanya Thiruvali Sunderarajan

