Java String

In Java, string is basically an object that represents sequence of char values. An array of characters works same as Java string. For example:

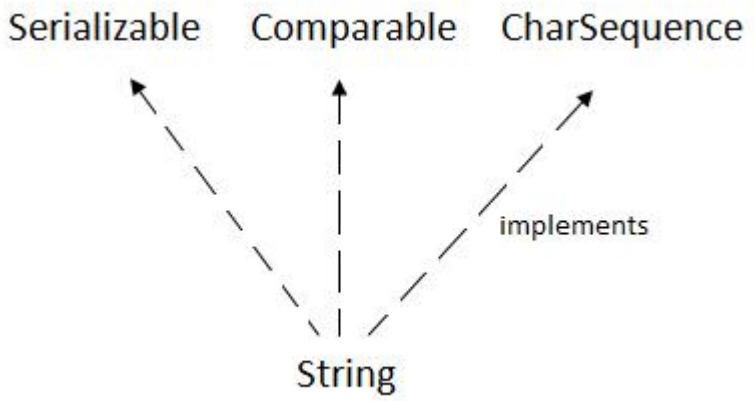
```
char[] ch={'j','a','v','a','t','p','o','i','n','t'};
String s=new String(ch);
```

is same as:

```
String s="javatpoint";
```

The java.lang.String class

implements Serializable, Comparable and CharSequence interfaces.



CharSequence Interface

The CharSequence interface is used to represent the sequence of characters. String, StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes implement it. It means, we can create strings in java by using these three classes.

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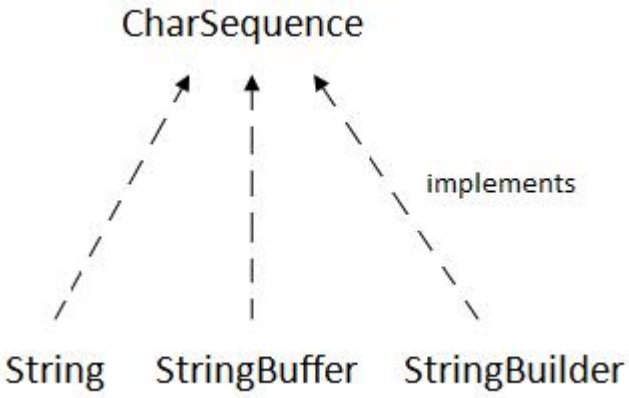


What is String in java

Generally, String is a sequence of characters. But in Java, string is an object that represents a sequence of characters. The java.lang.String class is used to create a string object.

How to create a string object?

There are two ways to create String object:

1. By string literal
2. By new keyword

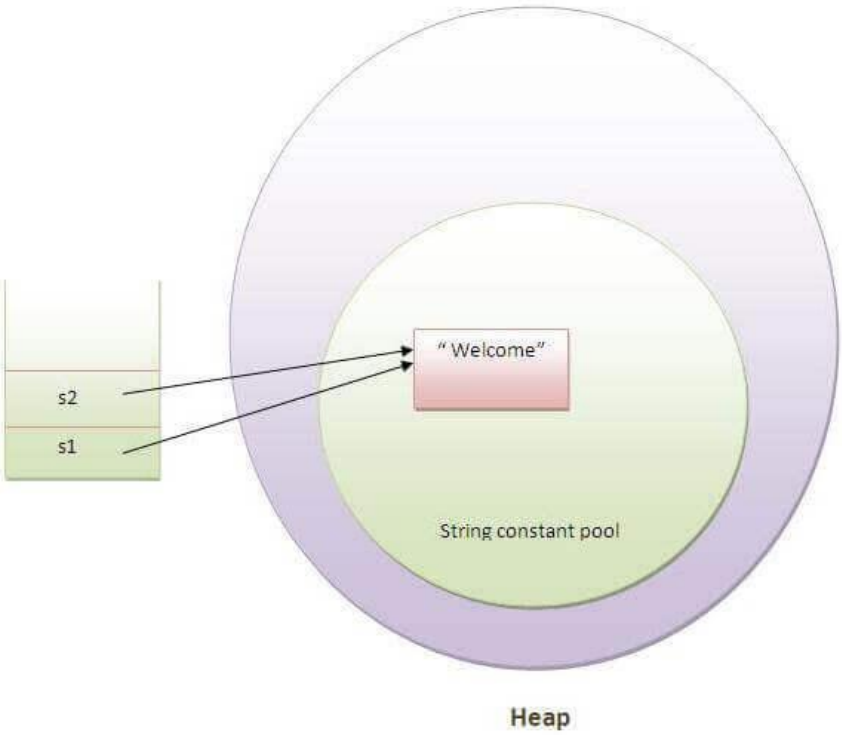
String Literal

Java String literal is created by using double quotes. For Example:

```
1.	String s="welcome";
```

Each time you create a string literal, the JVM checks the "string constant pool" first. If the string already exists in the pool, a reference to the pooled instance is returned. If the string doesn't exist in the pool, a new string instance is created and placed in the pool. For example:

```
1.	String s1="Welcome";
2.	String s2="Welcome";//It doesn't create a new instance
```



In the above example, only one object will be created. Firstly, JVM will not find any string object with the value "Welcome" in string constant pool, that is why it will create a new object. After that it will find the string with the value "Welcome" in the pool, it will not create a new object but will return the reference to the same instance.

Note: String objects are stored in a special memory area known as the "string constant pool".

Why Java uses the concept of String literal?

To make Java more memory efficient (because no new objects are created if it exists already in the string constant pool).

By new keyword

```
String s=new String("Welcome");//creates two objects and one reference variable
```

In such case, JVM will create a new string object in normal (non-pool) heap memory, and the literal "Welcome" will be placed in the string constant pool. The variable s will refer to the object in a heap (non-pool).

```
public class StringExample{
public static void main(String args[]){
String s1="java";//creating string by java string literal
char ch[]={'s','t','r','i','n','g','s'};
String s2=new String(ch);//converting char array to string
String s3=new String("example");//creating java string by new keywor
d

System.out.println(s1);
System.out.println(s2);
System.out.println(s3);
```

No.	Method	Description
1	char charAt(int index)	returns char value for the particular index
2	int length()	returns string length
3	static String format(String format, Object... args)	returns a formatted string.
4	static String format(Locale l, String format, Object... args)	returns formatted string with given locale.
5	String substring(int beginIndex)	returns substring for given begin index.
6	String substring(int beginIndex, int endIndex)	returns substring for given begin index and end index.
7	boolean contains(CharSequence s)	returns true or false after matching the sequence of char value.
8	static String join(CharSequence delimiter, CharSequence... elements)	returns a joined string.

9	static String join(CharSequence delimiter, Iterable<? extends CharSequence> elements)	returns a joined string.
10	boolean equals(Object another)	checks the equality of string with the given object.
11	boolean isEmpty()	checks if string is empty.
12	String concat(String str)	concatenates the specified string.
13	String replace(char old, char new)	replaces all occurrences of the specified char value.
14	String replace(CharSequence old, CharSequence new)	replaces all occurrences of the specified CharSequence.
15	static String equalsIgnoreCase(String another)	compares another string. It doesn't check case.
16	String[] split(String regex)	returns a split string matching regex.
17	String[] split(String regex, int limit)	returns a split string matching regex and limit.
18	String intern()	returns an interned string.
19	int indexOf(int ch)	returns the specified char value index.
20	int indexOf(int ch, int fromIndex)	returns the specified char value index starting with given

		index.
21	int indexOf(String substring)	returns the specified substring index.
22	int indexOf(String substring, int fromIndex)	returns the specified substring index starting with given index.
23	String toLowerCase()	returns a string in lowercase.
24	String toLowerCase(Locale l)	returns a string in lowercase using specified locale.
25	String toUpperCase()	returns a string in uppercase.
26	String toUpperCase(Locale l)	returns a string in uppercase using specified locale.
27	String trim()	removes beginning and ending spaces of this string.
28	static String valueOf(int value)	converts given type into string. It is an overloaded method.

Immutable String in Java

In java, **string objects are immutable**. Immutable simply means unmodifiable or unchangeable.

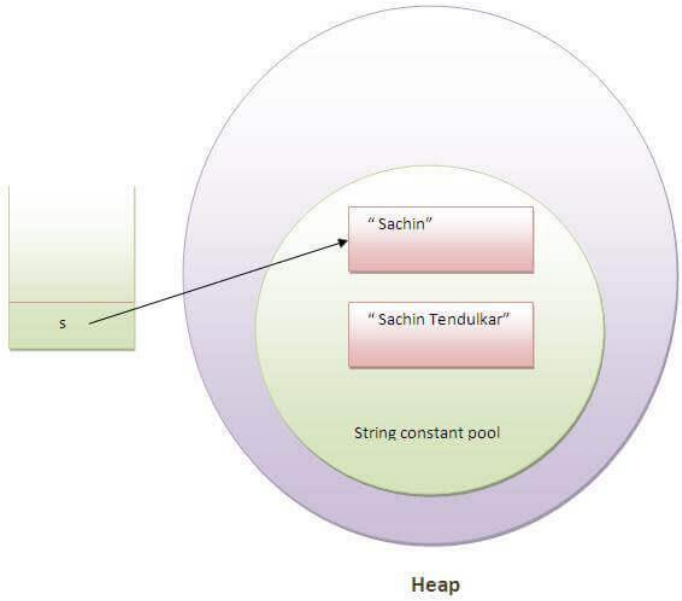
Once string object is created its data or state can't be changed but a new string object is created.

Let's try to understand the immutability concept by the example given below:

```
class Testimmutablestring{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s="Sachin";
   s.concat(" Tendulkar");//concat() method appends the string at the end

   System.out.println(s);//will print Sachin because strings are immutable
objects
 }
}
```

Here Sachin is not changed but a new object is created with sachintendulkar. That is why string is known as immutable.



As you can see in the above figure that two objects are created but s reference variable still refers to "Sachin" not to "Sachin Tendulkar".

But if we explicitely assign it to the reference variable, it will refer to "Sachin Tendulkar" object.For example:

```
class Testimmutablestring1{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s="Sachin";
   s=s.concat(" Tendulkar");
   System.out.println(s);
 }
}
```

Why string objects are immutable in java?

Because java uses the concept of string literal.Suppose there are 5 reference variables,all referes to one object "sachin".If one reference variable changes the value of the object, it will be affected to all the reference variables. That is why string objects are immutable in java.

Java String compare

We can compare string in java on the basis of content and reference.

There are three ways to compare string in java:

1. By equals() method
2. By = = operator
3. By compareTo() method

1.String compare by equals() method

The String equals() method compares the original content of the string. It compares values of string for equality. String class provides two methods:

- **public boolean equals(Object another)** compares this string to the specified object.
- **public boolean equalsIgnoreCase(String another)** compares this String to another string, ignoring case.

```
class Teststringcomparison1{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s1="Sachin";
   String s2="Sachin";
   String s3=new String("Sachin");
   String s4="Saurav";
   System.out.println(s1.equals(s2));//true
   System.out.println(s1.equals(s3));//true
   System.out.println(s1.equals(s4));//false
 }
}
```

```
class Teststringcomparison2{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s1="Sachin";
   String s2="SACHIN";

   System.out.println(s1.equals(s2));//false
   System.out.println(s1.equalsIgnoreCase(s2));//true
 }
}
```

2) String compare by == operator

The = = operator compares references not values.

```
class Teststringcomparison3{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s1="Sachin";
   String s2="Sachin";
   String s3=new String("Sachin");
   System.out.println(s1==s2);//true (because both refer to same instance)
   System.out.println(s1==s3);//false(because s3 refers to instance created in n
onpool)
```

3) String compare by compareTo() method

The String compareTo() method compares values lexicographically and returns an integer value that describes if first string is less than, equal to or greater than second string.

Suppose s1 and s2 are two string variables. If:

- **s1 == s2** :0
- **s1 > s2** :positive value
- **s1 < s2** :negative value

```
class Teststringcomparison4{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s1="Sachin";
   String s2="Sachin";
   String s3="Ratan";
   System.out.println(s1.compareTo(s2));//0
   System.out.println(s1.compareTo(s3));//1(because s1>s3)
   System.out.println(s3.compareTo(s1));//-1(because s3 < s1 )
 }
}
```

String Concatenation in Java

In java, string concatenation forms a new string that is the combination of multiple strings. There are two ways to concat string in java:

1. By + (string concatenation) operator
2. By concat() method

1) String Concatenation by + (string concatenation) operator

Java string concatenation operator (+) is used to add strings. For Example:

```
class TestStringConcatenation1{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s="Sachin"+" Tendulkar";
   System.out.println(s);//Sachin Tendulkar
 }
}
```

```
lass TestStringConcatenation2{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   String s=50+30+"Sachin"+40+40;
   System.out.println(s);//80Sachin4040
 }
}
```

Substring in Java

A part of string is called **substring**. In other words, substring is a subset of another string. In case of substring startIndex is inclusive and endIndex is exclusive.

Note: Index starts from 0.

You can get substring from the given string object by one of the two methods:

1. **public String substring(int startIndex):** This method returns new String object containing the substring of the given string from specified startIndex (inclusive).
2. **public String substring(int startIndex, int endIndex):** This method returns new String object containing the substring of the given string from specified startIndex to endIndex.

In case of string:

```
String s="hello";
System.out.println(s.substring(0,2));//he
```

Java String toUpperCase() and toLowerCase() method

The java string toUpperCase() method converts this string into uppercase letter and string toLowerCase() method into lowercase letter.

```
String s="Sachin";
System.out.println(s.toUpperCase());//SACHIN
System.out.println(s.toLowerCase());//sachin
```

Java String trim() method

The string trim() method eliminates white spaces before and after string.

```
String s="  Sachin  ";
System.out.println(s);//  Sachin
System.out.println(s.trim());//Sachin
```

Java String startsWith() and endsWith() method

```
String s="Sachin";
 System.out.println(s.startsWith("Sa"));//true
 System.out.println(s.endsWith("n"));//true
```

Java String charAt() method

The string charAt() method returns a character at specified index.

```
String s="Sachin";
System.out.println(s.charAt(0));//S
System.out.println(s.charAt(3));//h
```

Java String length() method

The string length() method returns length of the string.

```
String s="Sachin";
System.out.println(s.length());//6
```

Java String intern() method

A pool of strings, initially empty, is maintained privately by the class String.

When the intern method is invoked, if the pool already contains a string equal to this String object as determined by the equals(Object) method, then the string from the pool is returned. Otherwise, this String object is added to the pool and a reference to this String object is returned.

```
String s=new String("Sachin");
String s2=s.intern();
System.out.println(s2);//Sachin
```

Java String valueOf() method

The string valueOf() method coverts given type such as int, long, float, double, boolean, char and char array into string.

```
int a=10;
String s=String.valueOf(a);
System.out.println(s+10);
```

Java String replace() method

The string replace() method replaces all occurrence of first sequence of character with second sequence of character.

```
String s1="Java is a programming language. Java is a platform. Java is an Island.";
String replaceString=s1.replace("Java","Kava");//replaces all occurrences of "Java" to "Kava"
System.out.println(replaceString);
```

Java StringBuffer class

Java StringBuffer class is used to create mutable (modifiable) string. The StringBuffer class in java is same as String class except it is mutable i.e. it can be changed.

What is mutable string

A string that can be modified or changed is known as mutable string. StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes are used for creating mutable string.

```
class StringBufferExample{
public static void main(String args[]){
StringBuffer sb=new StringBuffer("Hello ");
sb.append("Java");//now original string is changed
System.out.println(sb);//prints Hello Java
}
}
```

2) StringBuffer insert() method

The insert() method inserts the given string with this string at the given position.

```
class StringBufferExample2{
public static void main(String args[]){
StringBuffer sb=new StringBuffer("Hello ");
sb.insert(1,"Java");//now original string is changed
System.out.println(sb);//prints HJavaello
}
}
```

Java StringBuilder class

Java StringBuilder class is used to create mutable (modifiable) string. The Java StringBuilder class is same as StringBuffer class except that it is non-synchronized. It is available since JDK 1.5.

```
class StringBuilderExample{
public static void main(String args[]){
StringBuilder sb=new StringBuilder("Hello ");
sb.append("Java");//now original string is changed
System.out.println(sb);//prints Hello Java
}
}
```

Difference between String and StringBuffer

No.	String	StringBuffer
1)	String class is immutable.	StringBuffer class is mutable.
2)	String is slow and consumes more memory when you concat too many strings because every time it creates new instance.	StringBuffer is fast and consumes less memory when you cancat strings.
3)	String class overrides the equals() method of Object class. So you can compare the contents of two strings by equals() method.	StringBuffer class doesn't override the equals() method of Object class.

Difference between String and StringBuffer

Java provides three classes to represent a sequence of characters: String, StringBuffer, and StringBuilder. The String class is an immutable class whereas StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes are mutable. There are many differences between StringBuffer and StringBuilder. The StringBuilder class is introduced since JDK 1.5.

A list of differences between StringBuffer and StringBuilder are given below:

No.	StringBuffer	StringBuilder

1)	StringBuffer is synchronized i.e. thread safe. It means two threads can't call the methods of StringBuffer simultaneously.	StringBuilder is non-synchronized i.e. not thread safe. It means two threads can call the methods of StringBuilder simultaneously.
2)	StringBuffer is less efficient than StringBuilder.	StringBuilder is more efficient than StringBuffer.

How to create Immutable class?

There are many immutable classes like String, Boolean, Byte, Short, Integer, Long, Float, Double etc. In short, all the wrapper classes and String class is immutable. We can also create immutable class by creating final class that have final data members as the example given below:

Example to create Immutable class

In this example, we have created a final class named Employee. It have one final datamember, a parameterized constructor and getter method.

```
public final class Employee{
final String pancardNumber;

public Employee(String pancardNumber){
this.pancardNumber=pancardNumber;
}

public String getPancardNumber(){
return pancardNumber;
}
).
```

The above class is immutable because:

- The instance variable of the class is final i.e. we cannot change the value of it after creating an object.
- The class is final so we cannot create the subclass.
- There is no setter methods i.e. we have no option to change the value of the instance variable.

These points makes this class as immutable.