# Inheritance

## Overview

In this lab, you will implement a simple library system. You will define an inheritance hierarchy to represent different types of items that can be borrowed from a library (books, DVDs, etc.).

## Source folders

Student project: StudentInheritance

Solution project: SolutionInheritance

## Roadmap

There are 5 exercises in this lab, of which the last exercise is "if time permits". Here is a brief summary of the tasks you will perform in each exercise; more detailed instructions follow later:

1. Getting started with the library system
2. Defining a base class
3. Defining subclasses
4. Writing the client application
5. Additional suggestions

## Exercise 1: Getting started with the library system

In the student project, take a look at the pre-written Member class, which represents a member in a library. The Member class has the following members:

* Instance variables containing the member's name and age, plus an integer indicating how many items the member has currently borrowed.
* A constructor, which initializes the instance variables.
* A toString() method, which returns a textual representation of the member's details.
* Methods named borrowedItem() and returnedItem(), which increment and decrement the "items borrowed" count respectively (you'll call these methods whenever an item is borrowed or returned by the member).

## Exercise 2: Defining a base class

Define an Item class, which will be the base class for all the different types of item in the library. Item should be an abstract class - why?

The Item class should have the following instance variables:

* Title (a String, initialized in a constructor).
* Date borrowed (a Date, null initially to indicate it's not borrowed yet).
* Current borrower (a reference to a Member object, null initially).

The Item class should have the following instance methods:

* isBorrowed()  
  Returns a boolean to indicate whether the item is currently borrowed (test the "current borrower" field to see if it's null).
* canBeBorrowedBy()  
  Takes a Member object as a parameter, and returns a boolean to indicate whether this member is allowed to borrow this item. Returns true by default (subclasses might override this method, with different rules for whether a member can borrow specific types of item)
* borrowItemBy()  
  Takes a Member object as a parameter, and returns a boolean to indicate whether the borrow succeeded. The implementation of this method should follow these guidelines:
  + The fundamental rule is that an item can't be borrowed if someone has already borrowed it!
  + There are additional constraints on who can borrow what, as defined by the canBeBorrowedBy() method, so invoke this method. If the method returns true, set the item's instance variables to record the borrower and the date borrowed. Also, invoke borrowedItem() on the Member object, to increment the number of items borrowed by this member.
  + Return true or false, to indicate whether the borrowing succeeded.
* returnItem()  
  Takes no parameters, and returns void. The implementation of this method should follow these guidelines:
  + Call returnedItem() on the item's borrower, to decrement the number of items borrowed by that member.
  + Set the item's instance variables to record the fact that the item is no longer borrowed.
* toString()   
  Returns a textual representation of the item's details, indicating whether the item is currently on loan (and to whom).

## Exercise 3: Defining subclasses

Define Book and DVD classes, which inherit from the Item base class.

The Book class should have the following additional members, to extend the capabilities of the Item base class:

* Instance variables for the book's author, ISBN, and genre. Implement the genre as an enum (allowable options are Children, Fiction, NonFiction).
* Suitable constructor(s).
* An override for the canBeBorrowedBy() method. The policy for books is that any member can borrow fiction and non-fiction books, but only children (age <= 16) can borrow children's books.
* An override for toString(), to return a textual representation of a book (including all the basic information in the Item base class, of course).

The DVD class should have the following additional members, to extend the capabilities of the Item base class:

* Instance variables for the DVD playing time (in minutes) and classification. Implement the classification as an enum (allowable options are Universal, Youth, Adult).
* Suitable constructor(s).
* An override for the canBeBorrowedBy() method. "Universal" DVDs can be borrowed by anyone; "youth" DVDs can be borrowed by anyone 12 or over; and "adult" DVDs can be borrowed by anyone 18 or over.
* An override for toString(), to return a textual representation of a DVD (including all the basic information in the Item base class).

## Exercise 4: Writing the client application

In MainProgram.java, write a main() method to test the classes in your hierarchy.

Suggestions and requirements:

* First, create some Member objects with various names and ages.
* Then declare an Item[] array variable, which is capable of holding any "kind of item".
* Create some Book and DVD objects and place them in the array.
* Borrow some books and DVDs. Test the rules that govern whether a member is allowed to borrow a book.
* What happens if a member attempts to borrow an item that is already borrowed by someone else? Clearly this shouldn't be allowed, but does your application enforce this rule? Where would you write the code to make this test…?
* Write a loop to iterate through all the items and display each one. Verify that the correct toString() method is called on each item, thanks to polymorphism.

## Exercise 5 (If time permits): Additional suggestions

In the Item class, define an abstract method named dateDueBack(). The method return type should be Date. The purpose of the method is to indicate when the item is due to be returned. This policy is different for each type of item, hence the reason for declaring it abstract.

In the Book class, override dateDueBack() so that it returns a date 21 days after the date the book was borrowed (you can use the Calendar class to do date arithmetic ☺).

In the DVD class, override dateDueBack() so that it returns a date 7 days after the date the DVD was borrowed.

Add some code in main() to test dateDueBack() policy.