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# Object-Oriented Programming: Polymorphism - Interface

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## 10.7 Case Study: Creating and Using Interfaces

- **Interfaces**
  - **Keyword interface**
  - **Contains only constants and abstract methods**
    - All fields are implicitly `public`, `static` and `final`
    - All methods are implicitly `public` abstract methods
  - **Classes can implement interfaces**
    - The class must declare each method in the interface using the same signature or the class must be declared `abstract`
  - **Typically used when disparate classes need to share common methods and constants**
  - **Normally declared in their own files with the same names as the interfaces and with the `.java` file-name extension**

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## Good Programming Practice 10.1

According to Chapter 9 of the *Java Language Specification*, it is proper style to declare an interface's methods without keywords `public` and `abstract` because they are redundant in interface method declarations. Similarly, constants should be declared without keywords `public`, `static` and `final` because they, too, are redundant.



## Common Programming Error 10.6

Failing to implement any method of an interface in a concrete class that implements the interface results in a syntax error indicating that the class must be declared `abstract`.



## 10.7.1 Developing a Payable Hierarchy

- **Payable interface**

- Contains method `getPaymentAmount`
- Is implemented by the `Invoice` and `Employee` classes

- **UML representation of interfaces**

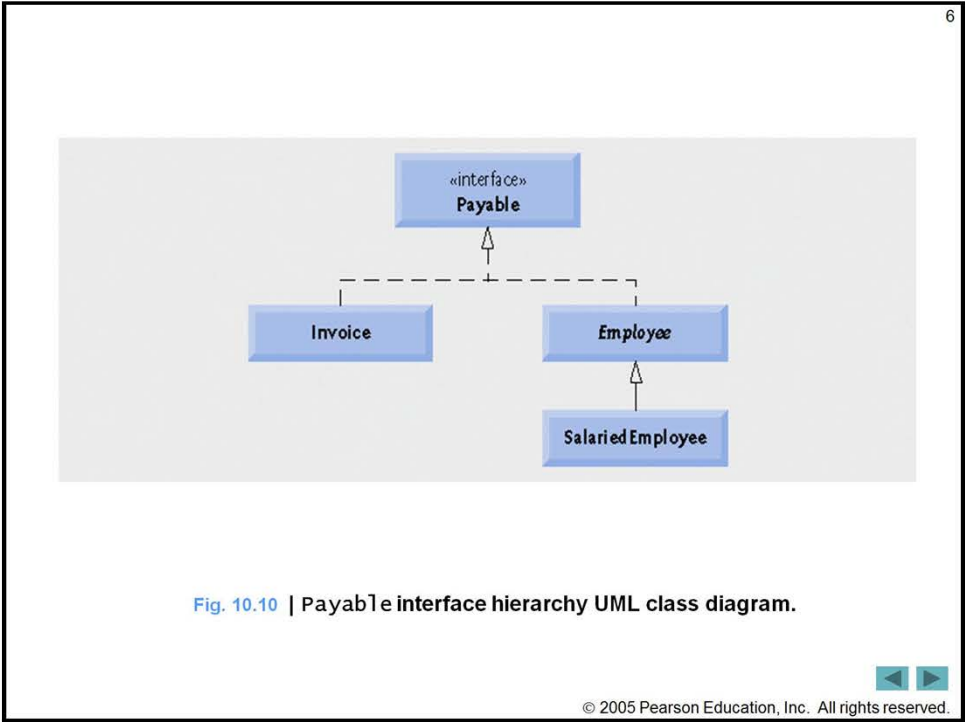
- Interfaces are distinguished from classes by placing the word “interface” in guillemets (« and ») above the interface name
- The relationship between a class and an interface is known as realization
  - A class “realizes” the method of an interface



## Good Programming Practice 10.2

**When declaring a method in an interface, choose a method name that describes the method’s purpose in a general manner, because the method may be implemented by a broad range of unrelated classes.**





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Outline

Payable.java

```
1 // Fig. 10.11: Payable.java
2 // Payable interface declaration.
3
4 public interface Payable
5 {
6     double getPaymentAmount(); // calculate payment; no implementation
7 } // end interface Payable
```

Declare interface Payable

Declare getPaymentAmount method which is implicitly public and abstract

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```

1 // Fig. 10.12: Invoice.java
2 // Invoice class implements Payable.
3
4 public class Invoice implements Payable
5 {
6     private String partNumber;
7     private String partDescription;
8     private int quantity;
9     private double pricePerItem;
10
11     // four-argument constructor
12     public Invoice( String part, String description, int count,
13         double price )
14     {
15         partNumber = part;
16         partDescription = description;
17         setQuantity( count ); // validate and store quantity
18         setPricePerItem( price ); // validate and store price per item
19     } // end four-argument Invoice constructor
20
21     // set part number
22     public void setPartNumber( String part )
23     {
24         partNumber = part;
25     } // end method setPartNumber
26

```


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Outline

Invoice.java

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Class Invoice implements interface Payable



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```

27 // get part number
28 public String getPartNumber()
29 {
30     return partNumber;
31 } // end method getPartNumber
32
33 // set description
34 public void setPartDescription( String description )
35 {
36     partDescription = description;
37 } // end method setPartDescription
38
39 // get description
40 public String getPartDescription()
41 {
42     return partDescription;
43 } // end method getPartDescription
44
45 // set quantity
46 public void setQuantity( int count )
47 {
48     quantity = ( count < 0 ) ? 0 : count; // quantity cannot be negative
49 } // end method setQuantity
50
51 // get quantity
52 public int getQuantity()
53 {
54     return quantity;
55 } // end method getQuantity
56


```

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Outline

Invoice.java

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```

57 // set price per item
58 public void setPricePerItem( double price )
59 {
60     pricePerItem = ( price < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : price; // validate price
61 } // end method setPricePerItem
62
63 // get price per item
64 public double getPricePerItem()
65 {
66     return pricePerItem;
67 } // end method getPricePerItem
68
69 // return String representation of Invoice object
70 public String toString()
71 {
72     return String.format( "%s: \n%s: %s (%s) \n%s: %d \n%s: $%,.2f",
73         "invoice", "part number", getPartNumber(), getPartDescription(),
74         "quantity", getQuantity(), "price per item", getPricePerItem() );
75 } // end method toString
76
77 // method required to carry out contract with interface Payable
78 public double getPaymentAmount()
79 {
80     return getQuantity() * getPricePerItem(); // calculate total cost
81 } // end method getPaymentAmount
82 } // end class Invoice

```


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Outline

Invoice.java

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Declare `getPaymentAmount` to fulfill contract with interface `Payable`



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### 10.7.3 Creating Class Invoice

- A class can implement as many interfaces as it needs
  - Use a comma-separated list of interface names after keyword `implements`
    - Example: `public class ClassName extends SuperclassName implements FirstInterface, SecondInterface, ...`



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```

1 // Fig. 10.13: Employee.java
2 // Employee abstract superclass implements Payable.
3
4 public abstract class Employee implements Payable
5 {
6     private String firstName;
7     private String lastName;
8     private String socialSecurityNumber;
9
10    // three-argument constructor
11    public Employee( String first, String last, String ssn )
12    {
13        firstName = first;
14        lastName = last;
15        socialSecurityNumber = ssn;
16    } // end three-argument Employee constructor
17

```


Class Employee implements interface Payable

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Outline

Employee.java

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```

18 // set first name
19 public void setFirstName( String first )
20 {
21     firstName = first;
22 } // end method setFirstName
23
24 // return first name
25 public String getFirstName()
26 {
27     return firstName;
28 } // end method getFirstName
29
30 // set last name
31 public void setLastName( String last )
32 {
33     lastName = last;
34 } // end method setLastName
35
36 // return last name
37 public String getLastName()
38 {
39     return lastName;
40 } // end method getLastName
41


```

13

Outline

Employee.java

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```

42 // set social security number
43 public void setSocialSecurityNumber( String ssn )
44 {
45     socialSecurityNumber = ssn; // should validate
46 } // end method setSocialSecurityNumber
47
48 // return social security number
49 public String getSocialSecurityNumber()
50 {
51     return socialSecurityNumber;
52 } // end method getSocialSecurityNumber
53
54 // return String representation of Employee object
55 public String toString()
56 {
57     return String.format( "%s %s\nsocial security number: %s",
58         getFirstName(), getLastName(), getSocialSecurityNumber() );
59 } // end method toString
60
61 // Note: We do not implement Payable method getPaymentAmount here so
62 // this class must be declared abstract to avoid a compilation error.
63 } // end abstract class Employee

```

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Outline

Employee.java

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getPaymentAmount method is not implemented here

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## 10.7.5 Modifying Class SalariedEmployee for Use in the Payable Hierarchy

- **Objects of any subclasses of the class that implements the interface can also be thought of as objects of the interface**
  - A reference to a subclass object can be assigned to an interface variable if the superclass implements that interface



## Software Engineering Observation 10.7

**Inheritance and interfaces are similar in their implementation of the “is-a” relationship. An object of a class that implements an interface may be thought of as an object of that interface type. An object of any subclasses of a class that implements an interface also can be thought of as an object of the interface type.**



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```

1 // Fig. 10.14: SalariedEmployee.java
2 // SalariedEmployee class extends Employee, which implements Payable.
3
4 public class SalariedEmployee extends Employee ←
5 {
6     private double weeklySalary;
7
8     // four-argument constructor
9     public SalariedEmployee( String first, String last, String ssn,
10         double salary )
11     {
12         super( first, last, ssn ); // pass to Employee constructor
13         setWeeklySalary( salary ); // validate and store salary
14     } // end four-argument SalariedEmployee constructor
15
16     // set salary
17     public void setWeeklySalary( double salary )
18     {
19         weeklySalary = salary < 0.0 ? 0.0 : salary;
20     } // end method setWeeklySalary
21

```

**Outline**  
 Class `SalariedEmployee` extends class `Employee`  
 (which implements interface `Payable`)

SalariedEmployee  
 .java  
 (1 of 2)

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```

22 // return salary
23 public double getWeeklySalary()
24 {
25     return weeklySalary;
26 } // end method getWeeklySalary
27
28 // calculate earnings; implement interface Payable method that was
29 // abstract in superclass Employee
30 public double getPaymentAmount()
31 {
32     return getWeeklySalary();
33 } // end method getPaymentAmount
34
35 // return String representation of SalariedEmployee object
36 public String toString()
37 {
38     return String.format( "salaried employee: %s\n%s: $%,.2f",
39         super.toString(), "weekly salary", getWeeklySalary() );
40 } // end method toString
41 } // end class SalariedEmployee

```

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Outline

SalariedEmployee

.java

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Declare getPaymentAmount method instead of earnings method

## Software Engineering Observation 10.8

**The “is-a” relationship that exists between superclasses and subclasses, and between interfaces and the classes that implement them, holds when passing an object to a method. When a method parameter receives a variable of a superclass or interface type, the method processes the object received as an argument polymorphically.**

## Software Engineering Observation 10.9

**Using a superclass reference, we can polymorphically invoke any method specified in the superclass declaration (and in class object). Using an interface reference, we can polymorphically invoke any method specified in the interface declaration (and in class object).**



```

1 // Fig. 10.15: PayableInterfaceTest.java
2 // Tests interface Payable.
3
4 public class PayableInterfaceTest
5 {
6     public static void main( String args[] )
7     {
8         // create four-element Payable array
9         Payable payableObjects[] = new Payable[ 4 ];
10
11         // populate array with objects that implement Payable
12         payableObjects[ 0 ] = new Invoice( "01234", "seat", 2, 375.00 );
13         payableObjects[ 1 ] = new Invoice( "56789", "tire", 4, 79.95 );
14         payableObjects[ 2 ] =
15             new SalariedEmployee( "John", "Smith", "111-11-1111", 800.00 );
16         payableObjects[ 3 ] =
17             new SalariedEmployee( "Lisa", "Barnes", "888-88-8888", 1200.00 );
18
19         System.out.println(
20             "Invoices and Employees processed polymorphically:\n" );
21     }
22 }

```

### Outline

Declare array of `Payable` variables

`PayableInterface`

`Test.java`

Assigning references to  
`Invoice` objects to  
`Payable` variables

Assigning references to  
`SalariedEmployee`  
objects to `Payable` variables



```

22 // generically process each element in array payableObjects
23 for ( Payable currentPayable : payableObjects )
24 {
25     // output currentPayable and its appropriate payment amount
26     system.out.printf( "%s \n%s: $%,.2f\n\n",
27         currentPayable.toString(),
28         "payment due", currentPayable.getPaymentAmount() );
29 } // end for
30 } // end main
31 } // end class PayableInterfaceTest

```

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Outline

PayableInterface

Test.java

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Call toString and getPaymentAmount methods polymorphically

Invoices and Employees processed polymorphically:

```

invoice:
part number: 01234 (seat)
quantity: 2
price per item: $375.00
payment due: $750.00

invoice:
part number: 56789 (tire)
quantity: 4
price per item: $79.95
payment due: $319.80

salaried employee: John Smith
social security number: 111-11-1111
weekly salary: $800.00
payment due: $800.00

salaried employee: Lisa Barnes
social security number: 888-88-8888
weekly salary: $1,200.00
payment due: $1,200.00

```

## Software Engineering Observation 10.10

**All methods of class Object can be called by using a reference of an interface type. A reference refers to an object, and all objects inherit the methods of class Object.**

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### 10.7.7 Declaring Constants with Interfaces

- **Interfaces can be used to declare constants used in many class declarations**
  - These constants are implicitly `public`, `static` and `final`
  - Using a `static import` declaration allows clients to use these constants with just their names



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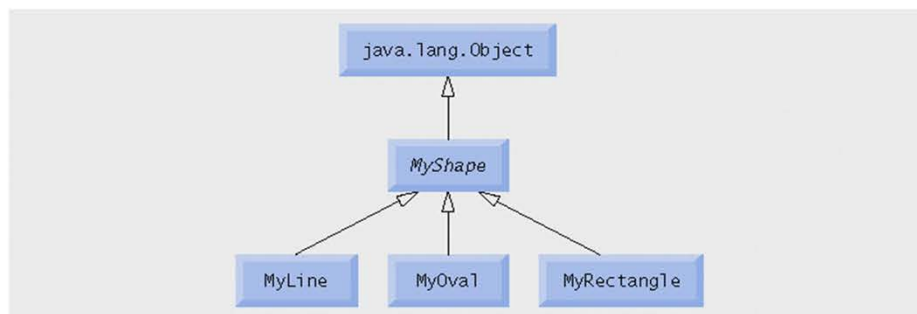


Fig. 10.17 | MyShape hierarchy.



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