

Scala Interview Questions and Answers

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Welcome to Scala interview questions and answers. Now-a-days, most of the Finance/Banking, Government, Telecom, Social Networking etc. companies are using **Scala, Play and Akka Framework** to develop their projects because these frameworks support both OOPs and FP features and also provide many advantages.

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Scala Interview Questions

Scala Interview Questions and Answers



I am going to share my Interview's Knowledge and **Scala Ecosystem or Fullstack Scala** (Scala/Play/Akka) Development experience with you through couple of posts.

I'm going to share you 3 separate posts. Some questions are just one question and some have some sub-questions. Totally am going to discuss around 200 questions. I bet if you are familiarise with all these questions, you will definitely clear all Scala Developer interviews. However, if you want to continue as a Fullstack Scala developer, you should learn all these Fullstack Scala technologies thoroughly.

I'm going to deliver Scala/Play/Akka

Interview Questions and Answers in
three parts:

1. Scala Interview Questions and Answers:-

We will discuss some basic Scala Interview questions here, which are useful for Freshers or Java Developers want to move to Scala development or 1+ Year of Experience as Scala Developer.

2. Scala Intermediate Interview Questions and Answers:-

We will discuss some interview questions, which are useful for 2+ Years of Experience as Scala/Java Developer.

3. Scala Advanced Interview Questions and Answers:-

We will discuss some Interview Questions, which are useful for Senior or Experienced Scala/Java Developer.

4. Scala/Java Concurrency and Parallelism Interview Questions and Answers:-

We will discuss Scala/Java Concurrency and Parallelism Interview Questions and Answers, which are useful for Senior or Experienced Scala/Java Developer.

We will also discuss about some difference between Scala and Java constructs so that Users (who are

In this post, we are going discuss about some basic Scala Interview Questions. Read my coming posts for rest of the two sections.

Java Tricky Program 23 - Main method signature

Scala Basic Interview Questions

In this section, we are going to list out all Scala Basic Interview Questions and in next section we will discuss them in detail.

- 1.** What is Scala? Is it a Language or Platform? Does it support OOP or FP? Who is the father of Scala?

- 2.** Is Scala Statically-Typed Language? What is Statically-Typed Language and What is Dynamically-Typed Language? What is the difference between statically typed and dynamically typed languages?

- 3.** Is Scala a Pure OOP Language? Is Java a Pure OOP Language?

- 4.** Does Scala support all Functional Programming concepts? Does

5. What are the major advantages of Scala Language? Are there any drawbacks of Scala Language?
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7. What is the main motto of Scala Language?
8. What are the popular JVM Languages available now?
9. Like Java's `java.lang.Object` class, what is the super class of all classes in Scala?
10. What is default access modifier in Scala? Does Scala have "public" keyword?
11. What is "Type Inference" in Scala?
12. Difference between Scala's `Int` and Java's `java.lang.Integer`? What is the relationship between `Int` and `RichInt` in Scala?
13. What is `Nothing` in Scala? What is `Nil` in Scala? What is the relationship between `Nothing` and `Nil` in Scala?
14. What is `Null` in Scala? What is `null` in Scala? What is difference between `Null` and `null` in Scala?
15. What is `Unit` in Scala? What is the difference between Java's `void` and Scala's `Unit`?
16. What is the difference between `val` and `var` in Scala?
17. What is REPL in Scala? What is the use of Scala's REPL? How to access Scala REPL from CMD Prompt?
18. What are the Scala Features?

difference between OOP and FP
style loops?

- 20.** What is “Application” in Scala or What is Scala Application? What is “App” in Scala? What is the use of Scala’s App?
- 21.** Does Scala support Operator Overloading? Does Java support Operator Overloading?
- 22.** What is an Expression? What is a Statement? Difference between Expression and Statement?
- 23.** What is the difference between Java’s “If..Else” and Scala’s “If..Else”?
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- 25.** Tell me some features which are supported by Java, but not by Scala and Vice versa?
- 26.** What is the difference between Function and Method in Scala?
- 27.** How many public class files are possible to define in Scala source file?
- 28.** Like Java, what are the default imports in Scala Language?
- 29.** How many operators are there in Scala and Why?
- 30.** Mention Some keywords which are used by Java and not required in Scala? Why Scala does not require them?
- 31.** What is PreDef in Scala?

post).

Scala Interview Questions and Answers

In this section, we will pickup each and every question from above list and discuss in-detail with suitable examples(if required). If you want to understand these concepts in-depth with examples, please go through my previous posts in Scala Tutorials section.

What is Scala? Is it a Language or Platform? Does it support OOP or FP? Who is the father of Scala?

Scala stands for **SCAlable LAnguage**. Martin Odersky is the father of Scala.

Scala is a Multi-Paradigm Programming Language, which supports both Object-Oriented and Functional Programming concepts. It is designed and developed by Martin Odersky.

Scala is a Hybrid Functional (Object-Oriented and Functional) Programming JVM Language. Scala has a Strong and Statically Type System. In Scala, all types are checked at compile-time.

Is Scala Statically-Typed Language?

What is Statically-Typed Language and What is Dynamically-Typed Language?

What is the difference between statically typed and dynamically typed languages?

Yes, Scala is a Statically-Typed Language.

Statically-Typed Language means that Type checking is done at compile-time by compiler, not at run-time. The main Advantage of these kinds of Languages is: As a Developer, we should care about writing right code to avoid all compile-time errors. As Compiler checks many of the errors at compile-time, we don't get much issues or bugs at run-time.

Examples:- Java, Scala, C, C++, Haskell etc.

Dynamically-Typed Language means that Type checking is done at run-time, not at compile-time by compiler. As a compiler won't check any type checking at compile-time, We can expect more run-time issues or bugs.

Is Scala a Pure OOP Language? Is Java a Pure OOP Language?

Pure Object-Oriented Programming Language means that everything should be an Object.

Java is not a Pure Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) Language because it supports the following two Non-OOP concepts:

Java supports primitive data types.
They are not objects.

Java supports Static members.
They are not related to objects.

Yes, Scala is a Pure Object-Oriented Programming Language because in Scala, everything is an Object and everything is a value. Functions are values and values are Objects.

Scala does not have primitive data types and also does not have static members.

Does Scala support all Functional Programming concepts? Does Java 8 support all Functional Programming concepts?

Yes, Scala supports all Functional Programming (FP) concepts. Java 8 has introduced some Functional Programming constructs, but it does

For instance, Java 8 does not support Pattern Matching, Function Currying, Implicits etc.

What are the major advantages of Scala Language? Are there any drawbacks of Scala Language?

If we use Scala Language to develop our applications, we can get the following benefits or advantages and drawbacks:

Advantages of Scala Language:-

Simple and Concise Code

Very Expressive Code

More Readable Code

100% Type-Safe Language

Immutability and No Side-Effects

More Reusable Code

More Modularity

Do More With Less Code

Very Flexible Syntax

Supports all OOP Features

Supports all FP Features. Highly Functional.

Less Error Prone Code

Better Parallel and Concurrency Programming

Highly Productivity

Distributed Applications

Full Java Interoperability

Powerful Scala DSLs available

REPL to learn Scala Basics

Drawbacks of Scala Language:-

Less Readable Code

Bit tough to Understand the Code
for beginners

Complex Syntax to learn

Less Backward Compatibility

NOTE:- We can write Scala Code either
more readable or less readable way.

What is the Main drawback of Scala Language?

Apart from many benefits of Scala, it has one major Drawback: Backward Compatibility Issue. If we want to upgrade to latest version of Scala, then we need to take care of changing some package names, class names, method or function names etc.

For instance, If you are using old Scala version and your project is using BeanProperty annotation. It was available in “scala.reflect” like “scala.reflect.BeanProperty” in old versions. If we want to upgrade to new

What is the main motto of Scala Language?

Like Java's Motto "Write Once Run Anywhere", Scala has "**Do More With Less**" or "**Do More With Less Code**" Motto.

"Do More With Less" means that we can develop more complex program or logic with less code.

What are the popular JVM Languages available now?

Java, Scala, Groovy and Closure are most popular JVM (Java Virtual Machine) languages.

Scala, Groovy and Closure JVM languages supports both Object-Oriented Programming Features and Functional Programming Features.

Java SE 8 supports all Object-Oriented Programming Features. However, it supports very few Functional Programming Features like Lambda Expressions, Functions, Type Inference, Higher-Order Functions.

Like Java's `java.lang.Object` class, what is the super class of all classes in Scala?

As we know in Java, the super class of all classes (Java API Classes or User Defined Classes) is `java.lang.Object`. In the same way in Scala, the super

Any class is defined in scala package like "scala.Any".

What is default access modifier in Scala? Does Scala have "public" keyword?

In Scala, if we don't mention any access modifier to a method, function, trait, object or class, the default access modifier is "public". Even for Fields also, "public" is the default access modifier.

Because of this default feature, Scala does not have "public" keyword.

What is "Type Inference" in Scala?

Types can be inferred by the Scala Compiler at compile-time. It is known as "Type Inference". Types means Data type or Result type. We use Types at many places in Scala programs like Variable types, Object types, Method/Function Parameter types, Method/Function return types etc.

In simple words, determining the type of a variable or expression or object etc at compile-time by compiler is known as "Type Inference".

What are the similarities and differences between Scala's Int and Java's java.lang.Integer? What is the

Scala?

Similarities between Scala's Int and Java's java.lang.Integer:

Both are classes.

Both are used to represent integer numbers.

Both are 32-bit signed integers.

Differences between Scala's Int and Java's java.lang.Integer:

Scala's Int class does not implement Comparable interface.

Java's java.lang.Integer class implements Comparable interface.

Java's Integer is something similar to Scala's Int and RichInt. RichInt is a final class defined in scala.runtime package like "scala.runtime.RichInt".

In Scala, the Relationship between Int and RichInt is that when we use Int in a Scala program, it will automatically convert into RichInt to utilize all methods available in that Class. We can say that RichInt is an Implicit class of Int. (We will discuss "What is Implicit and the advantages of Implicit in my next post).

What is Nothing in Scala? What is Nil in Scala? What is the relationship between Nothing and Nil in Scala?

a subtype of anything in Scala. There are no instances of Nothing.

Use Cases of Nothing In Scala:-

If Nothing does not have any instances, then when do we use this one in Scala Applications?

Nil is defined using Nothing (See below for example).

None is defined using Nothing.

```
object None extends Option[Nothing]
```

We can use Nothing as a return type of methods which never return.

We can use Nothing as a return type of methods which terminates abnormally.

Nil is an object, which is used to represent an empty list. It is defined in “scala.collection.immutable” package as shown below:

```
object Nil extends List[Nothing]
```

Example:-

```
scala> Nil
res5:
scala.collection.immutable.Nil.type = List()
```

What is Null in Scala? What is null in Scala? What is difference between Null and null in Scala?

Null is a Type (final class) in Scala.
Null type is available in “scala”
package as “scala.Null”. It has one
and only one instance that is null.

In Scala, “null” is an instance of type
scala.Null type.

Example:-

```
scala> val myNullRef :  
Null = null  
myNullRef: Null = null
```

We cannot assign other values to Null
type references. It accepts only ‘null’
value.

Null is a subtype of all Reference
types. Null is at the bottom of the
Scala Type System. As it is NOT a
subtype of Value types, we can assign
“null” to any variable of Value type.

Example:-

```
scala> val myInt : Int =  
null  
:10: error: an  
expression of type Null  
is ineligible for  
implicit conversion  
          val myInt : Int =  
null
```

Null(null) but required: Int. The implicit conversions between Null and Int are not applicable because they are ambiguous.

What is Unit in Scala? What is the difference between Java's void and Scala's Unit?

In Scala, Unit is used to represent “No value” or “No Useful value”. Unit is a final class defined in “scala” package that is “scala.Unit”.

Unit is something similar to Java's void. But they have few differences.

Java's void does not any value. It is nothing.

Scala's Unit has one value ()

() is the one and only value of type Unit in Scala. However, there are no values of type void in Java.

Java's void is a keyword. Scala's Unit is a final class.

Both are used to represent a method or function is not returning anything.

What is the difference between val and var in Scala?

In Scala, both val and var are used to define variables. However, they have some significant differences.

var stands for variable.

As we know, variable means changeable and value means constant.

var is used to define Mutable variables that means we can reassign values once its created.

val is used to define Immutable variables that means we cannot reassign values once its created.

In simple Java terminology, var means 'variable' and val means 'final variable'.

What is REPL in Scala? What is the use of Scala's REPL? How to access Scala REPL from CMD Prompt?

REPL stands for Read-Evaluate-Print Loop. We can pronounce it as 'ripple'. In Scala, REPL is acts as an Interpreter to execute Scala code from command prompt. That's why REPL is also known as Scala CLI(Command Line Interface) or Scala command-line shell.

The main purpose of REPL is that to develop and test small snippets of Scala code for practice purpose. It is very useful for Scala Beginners to practice basic programs.

We can access REPL by using "scala" command. When we type "scala" command at CMD Prompt, we will get REPL shell where we can type and execute scala code.

What are the Scala Features?

Scala Language supports the following features:

Supports both OOP-style(Imperative-Style) and Functional-Style Programming

Pure Object-Oriented Programming Language

Supports all Functional Features

REPL(Read-Evaluate-Print Loop) Interpreter

Strong Type System

Statically-Typed Language

Type Inference

Supports Pattern Matching

Supports Closures

Supports Persistent Data Structures

Uses Actor Model to develop Concurrency Applications

Interoperable with Java

Available all development tools – IDEs, Build Tools, Web Frameworks, TDD and BDD Frameworks

How do we implement loops

between OOP and FP style loops?

We know how to implement loops in Object-Oriented style: Using Mutable Temporary variables, update the variable value and use Loop constructs. It is very tedious and unsafe approach. It is not Thread-Safe.

Object-Oriented style uses the following constructs to implement Loops:

Loop Constructs

Mutability

Side Effects

We can implement same Loops differently in Functional way. It is Thread-Safe. We can use the following two techniques to implement the loops in functional style:

Recursion

Tail-Recursion

Immutability

No Side-Effects

**What is “Application” in Scala or What is Scala Application?
What is “App” in Scala? What is the use of Scala’s App?**

main method. If an Object or a Class extends this trait, then they will become as Scala Executable programs automatically because they will inherit main method from Application.

The main advantage of using App is that we don't need to write main method. The main drawback of using App is that we should use same name "args" to refer command line argument because scala.App's main() method uses this name.

Example:-

Without Scala App:

```
object MyApp {  
    def main( args:  
    Array[String]) {  
        println("Hello  
World!")  
    }  
}
```

With Scala App:

```
object MyApp extends  
App {  
    println("Hello  
World!")  
}
```

If we observe above two examples, in second example we have not defined main method because we have inherited from Scala App(Application).

Before Scala 2.9, we have scala.Application trait. But it is deprecated by scala.App since Scala 2.9 version.

Overloading? Does Java support Operator Overloading?

Java does not support Operator Overloading. Scala supports Operator Overloading.

The reason is that Java does not want to support some misleading method names like “+*”. Scala has given this flexibility to Developer to decide which methods/functions name should use.

When we call `2 + 3` that means ‘+’ is not an operator, it is a method available in `Int` class (or it's implicit type). Internally, this call is converted into “`2.+(3)`”.

What is an Expression? What is a Statement? Difference between Expression and Statement?

Expression:

Expression is a value that means it will evaluate to a Value. As an Expression returns a value, We can assign it to a variable.

Example:- Scala's If condition, Java's Ternary operator.

Statement:

Statement defines one or more actions or operations. That means Statement performs actions. As it does not return a value, we cannot assign it to a Variable.

What is the difference between Java's "If..Else" and Scala's "If..Else"?

Java's "If..Else":

In Java, "If..Else" is a statement, not an expression. It does not return a value and cannot assign it to a variable.

Example:-

```
int year;
if( count == 0)
    year = 2014;
else
    year = 2015;
```

Scala's "If..Else":

In Scala, "If..Else" is an expression. It evaluates a value i.e. returns a value. We can assign it to a variable.

```
val year = if( count ==
0) 2014 else 2015
```

NOTE:-Scala's "If..Else" works like Java's Ternary Operator. We can use Scala's "If..Else" like Java's "If..Else" statement as shown below:

```
val year = 0
if( count == 0)
    year = 2014
else
    year = 2015
```

Language or Statement-Based Language? Is Java an Expression-Based Language or Statement-Based Language?

In Scala, everything is a value. All Expressions or Statements evaluates to a Value. We can assign Expression, Function, Closure, Object etc. to a Variable. So Scala is an Expression-Oriented Language.

In Java, Statements are not Expressions or Values. We cannot assign them to a Variable. So Java is not an Expression-Oriented Language. It is a Statement-Based Language.

Tell me some features which are supported by Java, but not by Scala and Vice versa?

Java does not support Operator Overloading, but Scala supports it.

Java supports **++** and **--** operators , but Scala does not support them.

Java has Checked and Unchecked Exceptions, but Scala does not have Checked Exceptions.

Scala does not support break and continue statements, but Java uses them.

Scala does not have explicit Type casting, but Java supports this feature.

Java uses Primitive Data types, but Scala does not have.

Java supports static members, but Scala does not have static members concept.

Scala supports Implicits and Traits, Java does not support them.

NOTE:-This list goes beyond one page. However, these are some important points to remember about differences in Scala and Java features to face Scala Interviews.

What is the difference between Function and Method in Scala?

Scala supports both functions and methods. We use same syntax to define functions and methods, there is no syntax difference.

However, they have one minor difference:

We can define a method in a Scala class or trait. Method is associated with an object (An instance of a Class). We can call a method by using an instance of a Class. We cannot use a Scala Method directly without using object.

Function is not associated with a class or trait. It is defined in a Scala Package. We can access functions without using objects, like Java's Static Methods.

NOTE:- We will discuss about Class, Trait, Package, Object etc in my coming posts.

to define in Scala source file?

In Java, we can define at-most one public class/interface in a Source file. Unlike Java, Scala supports multiple public classes in the same source file.

We can define any number of public classes/interfaces/traits in a Scala Source file.

Like Java, what are the default imports in Scala Language?

We know, `java.lang` is the default package imported into all Java Programs by JVM automatically. We don't need to import this package explicitly.

In the same way, the following are the default imports available in all Scala Programs:

`java.lang` package

`scala` package

`scala.PreDef`

How many operators are there in Scala and Why?

Unlike Java and like C++, Scala supports Operator Overloading. Scala has one and only operator that is “=” (equalto) operator. Other than this all are methods only.

observes 2 and 3 are Integers and tries to find that “+” method in Int class. So Scala Compiler converts “2 + 3” expression into “2.+ (3)” and make a call to “+” method on integer object “2” and pass integer object “3” as parameter to “+” method.

Both “2 + 3” and “2.+ (3)” are equal. It’s just Scala’s syntactic sugar to write programs in Functional style.

Mention Some keywords which are used by Java and not required in Scala? Why Scala does not require them?

Java uses the following keywords extensively:

‘public’ keyword – to define classes, interfaces, variables etc.

‘static’ keyword – to define static members.

Scala does not required these two keywords. Scala does not have ‘public’ and ‘static’ keywords.

In Scala, default access modifier is ‘public’ for classes, traits, methods/functions, fields etc. That’s why, ‘public’ keyword is not required.

To support OOP principles, Scala team has avoided ‘static’ keyword. That’s why Scala is a Pure-OOP Langauge. It is very tough to deal static members in Concurrency applications.

In Scala, PreDef is an object defined in scala package as “scala.PreDef”. It is an utility object.

It defines many utility methods as shown below:

Console IO (print,println etc)

Collection utility methods

String utility methods

Implicit conversion methods

Assertion utility methods etc.

For instance, print, println, readLine, readInt, require etc methods are defined in PreDef object.

In Scala, PreDef is available to use its methods without importing in all Scala Programs because Scala Compiler imports this object into all compilation units like Class, Object, Trait etc. automatically.

That's it all about “Scala Basic Interview Questions and Answers”. We will discuss some Intermediate, Advanced and Real-time Scala Interview Questions and Answers in my coming posts.

Please drop me a comment if you like my post or have any issues/suggestions.

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June 22, 2019 at 10:03 am

Some very well written and
succinct answers, thank
you.

[Reply](#)

krishnaiah Chappidi says:

August 26, 2018 at 2:16 pm

Really Good One to
Understand the SCALA
Concepts in Depth . Thank
you for for your valuable
time for it.

[Reply](#)

Ajay Jayswal says:

August 19, 2018 at 9:32 pm

Thank you.
post Scala interview
question and ans.
post practical example for
interview in both spark and
scala

[Reply](#)



April 15, 2018 at 11:29 pm
Thank you. Very nice post.

[Reply](#)



Nick says: April 15, 2018 at 11:29 pm

Thank you for this post.
There is a small mistake in
the third example in 23rd
question – reassignment
to val. It won't compile.

[Reply](#)



Gaurav Kawatra says: August 19, 2017 at 12:05 pm

Scala tutorial is much-needed demand.

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Raviteja says: August 1, 2017 at 11:06 am

Hi Nice blog for scala
interview questions so far I
found.

Sir, your 16th question. In
Val and Var diff, you just
wrote in reverse way.

var is Mutable

val is Immutable

[Reply](#)

Anurag Singh says: July 26, 2017 at 8:07 am

here we found all the
interview question which is
asked in the interviews.
thanks.

[Reply](#)

Kundan Kumar says: March 29, 2017 at 11:37 am

Thank you so much. Keep it
up. Very Expressive and
knowledgeable post. I
gained lots of knowledge.

[Reply](#)

Narendra M says: March 12, 2017 at 11:20 am

send SPARK related information. Its very helpful for all

Thanks in Advance

NarendraReddy.M [Reply](#)

Ammu says: March 8, 2017 at 8:56 am

Man I don't have words to express my happiness after gone through ur post. Excellent stuff. Thank you so much.

[Reply](#)



Rambabu says:

March 8, 2017 at 11:50 am

Thank you so much for reading my posts

[Reply](#)

Nat says:

February 21, 2017 at 8:39 am

Thank you, very useful

[Reply](#)

PUNEET BHATIA says:

February 2, 2017 at 8:00 pm

Dear Ram,

Thank very much for this great post. Looking forward to see many more posts like this in future. Please keep helping us the same way.

Regards,

Puneet Bhatia [Reply](#)

Sreenivasula Reddy says:

August 20, 2019 at 4:14 pm

Thanks, Ram for great stuff on Scala. Looking forward of posts on other latest technologies. Once

Madhay says:
January 6, 2017 at 3:02 am

Ram Excellent post !!
Thank you so much for
putting lot of things
together & making our life
so simple (Preparing for
Interview).

Really appreciate your
work .. well done...

Keep posting other topics
(Spark, Sbt, etc) as well.

Once again Thank you so
much!

[Reply](#)



Rambabu says:
January 6, 2017 at 4:28 am

Thanks for reading
my tutorials.

I have plan to release
Spark tutorials soon.
Just waiting for user
requests. If more
users are expecting
this, I will deliver
posts on Scala 2.12,
Play, Akka, Spark, Sbt
etc.

Ram [Reply](#)

srini says:
January 3, 2017 at 6:58 am

Awesome questions and
excellent answers.. thanks
for your valuable
information Rambabu

[Reply](#)

christianasteves says:
November 21, 2016 at 12:37 am

The style of Article is good.
The information provided
is precise and factual.

[Reply](#)

helps me a lot about what I missed from learning Scala Programming.

Thanks a lot.

[Reply](#)

Bala chennaiah says:

October 31, 2016 at 9:16 pm

Hai good morning sir lots of thanks to you. I am beginner I learnt good knowledge of scala. Could u please send spark valueble information. This is bala. Thanks & regarding.

[Reply](#)

Sekhar says:

October 10, 2016 at 1:14 pm

Great Stuff, very useful. if you provide some code examples also, that would be good. Example code for question like "What is the difference between Function and Method in Scala?"

[Reply](#)

Dinesh says:

September 15, 2016 at 3:39 am

I am beginning to learn of SPARK concepts. You provided all the information is very helpful to understand the logic between JAVA and Scala.

Really this blog helps me to get more information about fundamental of Scala programming

[Reply](#)



Rambabu says:

September 15, 2016 at 4:33 am

Thank you for your comments.

Are you looking for

[Reply](#)

Raghunath says:

May 27, 2016 at 10:42 am

Excellent for beginners

[Reply](#)

Ranjan Kumar says:

May 17, 2016 at 5:19 am

Fantastic stuff you did.
Thanks.

I have been using Scala for
last one year . Learned few
missed things that should
be known.

[Reply](#)

Ramdas Bhingole says:

April 29, 2016 at 7:47 am

Wao ! It's awesome, very
very useful to beginners to
know basic questions, and
for experienced people to
refresh their Scala
concepts. Very very very
useful.

Thanks a lot for this
journalDev.

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experience and learnings with the whole world. He loves Open source technologies and writing on JournalDev has become his passion.