

The Java programming language has 50 *keywords*. Each keyword has a specific meaning in the language. You can't use a keyword for anything other than its pre-assigned meaning.

The following table lists Java's keywords.

Keyword	What It Does
<code>abstract</code>	Indicates that the details of a class, a method, or an interface are given elsewhere in the code.
<code>assert</code>	Tests the truth of a condition that the programmer believes is true.
<code>boolean</code>	Indicates that a value is either <code>true</code> or <code>false</code> .
<code>break</code>	Jumps out of a loop or <code>switch</code> .
<code>byte</code>	Indicates that a value is an 8-bit whole number.
<code>case</code>	Introduces one of several possible paths of execution in a <code>switch</code> statement.
<code>catch</code>	Introduces statements that are executed when something interrupts the flow of execution in a <code>try</code> clause.
<code>char</code>	Indicates that a value is a character (a single letter, digit, punctuation symbol, and so on) stored in 16 bits of memory.
<code>class</code>	Introduces a class — a blueprint for an object.

<code>const</code>	You can't use this word in a Java program. The word has no meaning but, because it's a keyword, you can't create a variable named <code>const</code> .
<code>continue</code>	Forces the abrupt end of the current loop iteration and begins another iteration.
<code>default</code>	Introduces a path of execution to take when no case is a match in a <code>switch</code> statement.
<code>do</code>	Causes the computer to repeat some statements over and over again (for instance, as long as the computer keeps getting unacceptable results).
<code>double</code>	Indicates that a value is a 64-bit number with one or more digits after the decimal point.
<code>else</code>	Introduces statements that are executed when the condition in an <code>if</code> statement isn't true.
<code>enum</code>	Creates a newly defined type — a group of values that a variable can have.
<code>extends</code>	Creates a subclass — a class that reuses functionality from a previously defined class.
<code>final</code>	Indicates that a variable's value cannot be changed, that a class's functionality cannot be extended, or that a method cannot be overridden.
<code>finally</code>	Introduces the last will and testament of the statements in a <code>try</code> clause.

<code>float</code>	Indicates that a value is a 32-bit number with one or more digits after the decimal point.
<code>for</code>	Gets the computer to repeat some statements over and over again (for instance, a certain number of times).
<code>goto</code>	You can't use this word in a Java program. The word has no meaning. Because it's a keyword, you can't create a variable named <code>goto</code> .
<code>if</code>	Tests to see whether a condition is true. If it's true, the computer executes certain statements; otherwise, the computer executes other statements.
<code>implements</code>	Indicates that a class provides bodies for methods whose headers are declared in an interface.
<code>import</code>	Enables the programmer to abbreviate the names of classes defined in a package.
<code>instanceof</code>	Tests to see whether a certain object comes from a certain class.
<code>int</code>	Indicates that a value is a 32-bit whole number.
<code>interface</code>	Introduces an interface. An interface is like a class but, for the most part, an interface's methods have no bodies.
<code>long</code>	Indicates that a value is a 64-bit whole number.

<code>native</code>	Enables the programmer to use code that was written in a language other than Java.
<code>new</code>	Creates an object from an existing class.
<code>package</code>	Puts the code into a package — a collection of logically related definitions.
<code>private</code>	Indicates that a variable or method can be used only within a certain class.
<code>protected</code>	Indicates that a variable or method can be used in subclasses from another package.
<code>public</code>	Indicates that a variable, class, or method can be used by any other Java code.
<code>return</code>	Ends execution of a method and possibly returns a value to the calling code.
<code>short</code>	Indicates that a value is a 16-bit whole number.
<code>static</code>	Indicates that a variable or method belongs to a class, rather than to any object created from the class.
<code>strictfp</code>	Limits the computer's ability to represent extra large or extra small numbers when the computer does intermediate calculations on <code>float</code> and <code>double</code> values.
<code>super</code>	Refers to the superclass of the code in which the word <code>super</code> appears.

<code>switch</code>	Tells the computer to follow one of many possible paths of execution (one of many possible cases), depending on the value of an expression.
<code>synchronized</code>	Keeps two threads from interfering with one another.
<code>this</code>	A self-reference — refers to the object in which the word <code>this</code> appears.
<code>throw</code>	Creates a new exception object and indicates that an exceptional situation (usually something unwanted) has occurred.
<code>throws</code>	Indicates that a method or constructor may pass the buck when an exception is thrown.
<code>transient</code>	Indicates that, if and when an object is serialized, a variable's value doesn't need to be stored.
<code>try</code>	Introduces statements that are watched (during runtime) for things that can go wrong.
<code>void</code>	Indicates that a method doesn't return a value.
<code>volatile</code>	Imposes strict rules on the use of a variable by more than one thread at a time.
<code>while</code>	Repeats some statements over and over again (as long as a condition is still true).