

## Break statement

The break statement has the form:

```
break ;
```

It is used most often in a switch statement, as in the code in the box to the right.

Execution of the break statement terminates execution of the switch statement.

The break statement may also be used in the body of a loop, to terminate execution of the loop. We don't give an example of this because we prefer that it not be used in this way. It is can be confusing. Usually, code can be restructured/simplified to eliminate the need for a break within a loop body. This may require inserting a helper method.

A break statement is syntactically correct only if it occurs in the body of a loop or a switch. If not, a compile-time error occurs and the program will not compile.

### Break statement with a label

One can write a break statement

```
break lab;
```

where lab is the name of a labeled statement within the method in which this break statement appears. Execution terminates execution of that labeled statement. We don't describe this in detail because we would rather not see it used.

```
// Store college-year year as a
// String in y.
// if year is not in 1..4, store the
// empty string in String y;
switch (year) {
    case 1:
        y= "freshman";
        break;
    case 2:
        y= "sophomore";
        break;
    case 3:
        y= "junior";
        break;
    case 4:
        y= "senior";
        break;
    default: y= "";
}
```