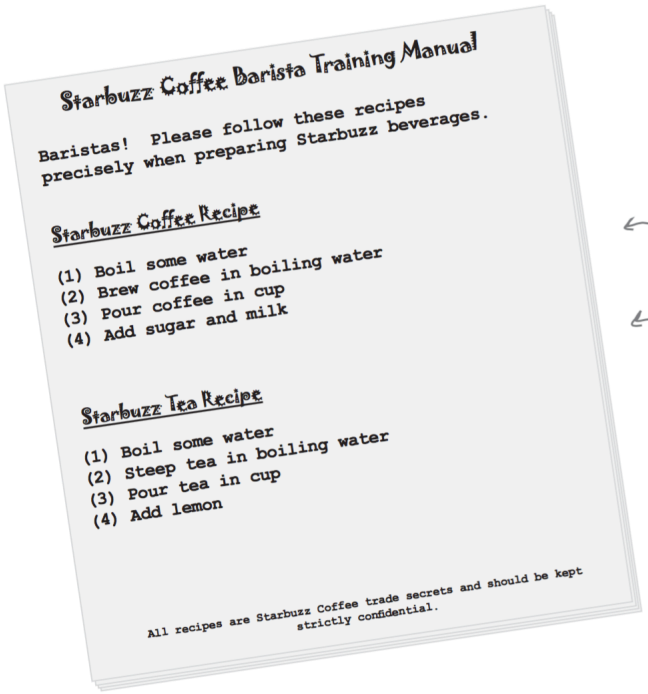
Template Method

Contents are from “Design Patterns” and “Head First Design Patterns”

Template Method

- Intent
  - Define the skeleton of an algorithm in an operation, deferring some steps to subclasses. Template Method lets subclasses redefine certain steps of an algorithm without changing the algorithm's structure.



The recipe for coffee looks a lot like the recipe for tea, doesn't it?

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Here's our Coffee class for making coffee.

Here's our recipe for coffee, straight out of the training manual.

Each of the steps is implemented as a separate method.

```
public class Coffee {

    void prepareRecipe() {
        boilWater();
        brewCoffeeGrinds();
        pourInCup();
        addSugarAndMilk();
    }

    public void boilWater() {
        System.out.println("Boiling water");
    }

    public void brewCoffeeGrinds() {
        System.out.println("Dripping Coffee through filter");
    }

    public void pourInCup() {
        System.out.println("Pouring into cup");
    }

    public void addSugarAndMilk() {
        System.out.println("Adding Sugar and Milk");
    }
}
```

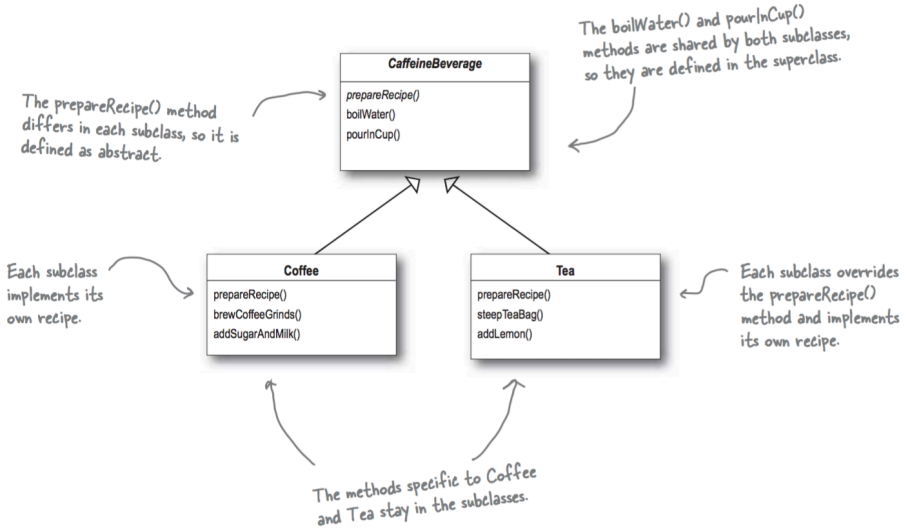
Each of these methods implements one step of the algorithm. There's a method to boil water, brew the coffee, pour the coffee in a cup and add sugar and milk.

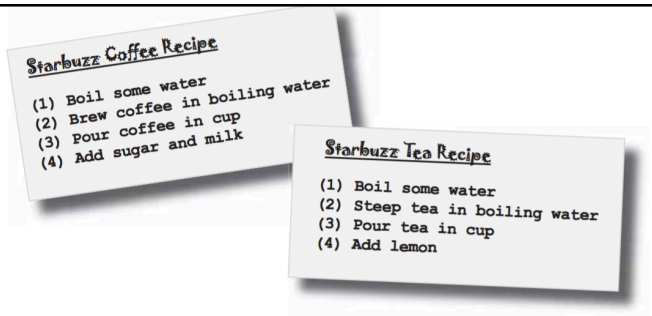
```
public class Tea {

    void prepareRecipe() {
        boilWater();
        steepTeaBag();
        pourInCup();
        addLemon();
    }

    public void boilWater() {
        System.out.println("Boiling water");
    }

    public void steepTeaBag() {
        System.out.println("Steeping the tea");
    }

    public void addLemon() {
        System.out.println("Adding Lemon");
    }

    public void pourInCup() {
        System.out.println("Pouring into cup");
    }
}
```

This looks very similar to the one we just implemented in Coffee; the second and forth steps are different, but it's basically the same recipe.

These two methods are specialized to Tea.

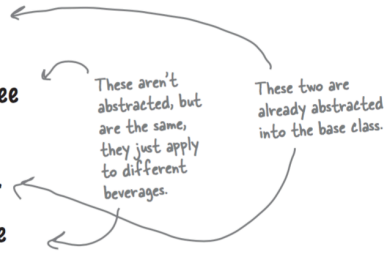
Notice that these two methods are exactly the same as they are in Coffee! So we definitely have some code duplication going on here.





Notice that both recipes follow the same algorithm:

1. Boil some water.
2. Use the hot water to extract the coffee or tea.
3. Pour the resulting beverage into a cup.
4. Add the appropriate condiments to the beverage.



Coffee

```
void prepareRecipe() {
    boilWater();
    brewCoffeeGrinds();
    pourInCup();
    addSugarAndMilk();
}
```

Tea

```
void prepareRecipe() {
    boilWater();
    steepTeaBag();
    pourInCup();
    addLemon();
}
```

```
void prepareRecipe() {
    boilWater();
    brew();
    pourInCup();
    addCondiments();
}
```

CaffeineBeverage is abstract, just like in the class design.

```
public abstract class CaffeineBeverage {

    final void prepareRecipe() {
        boilWater();
        brew();
        pourInCup();
        addCondiments();
    }

    abstract void brew();

    abstract void addCondiments();

    void boilWater() {
        System.out.println("Boiling water");
    }

    void pourInCup() {
        System.out.println("Pouring into cup");
    }
}
```

Now, the same prepareRecipe() method will be used to make both Tea and Coffee. prepareRecipe() is declared final because we don't want our subclasses to be able to override this method and change the recipe! We've generalized steps 2 and 4 to brew() the beverage and addCondiments().

Because Coffee and Tea handle these methods in different ways, they're going to have to be declared as abstract. Let the subclasses worry about that stuff!

Remember, we moved these into the CaffeineBeverage class (back in our class diagram).

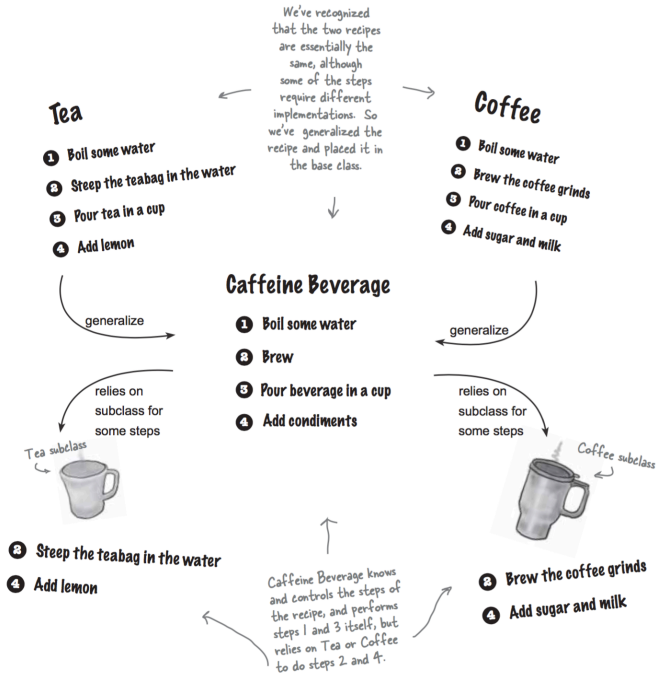
As in our design, Tea and Coffee now extend CaffeineBeverage.

```
public class Tea extends CaffeineBeverage {
    public void brew() {
        System.out.println("Steeping the tea");
    }
    public void addCondiments() {
        System.out.println("Adding Lemon");
    }
}
```

Tea needs to define brew() and addCondiments() — the two abstract methods from Beverage.

Same for Coffee, except Coffee deals with coffee, and sugar and milk instead of tea bags and lemon.

```
public class Coffee extends CaffeineBeverage {
    public void brew() {
        System.out.println("Dripping Coffee through filter");
    }
    public void addCondiments() {
        System.out.println("Adding Sugar and Milk");
    }
}
```



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```
public abstract class CaffeineBeverage {

    void final prepareRecipe() {
        boilWater();
        brew();
        pourInCup();
        addCondiments();
    }

    abstract void brew();

    abstract void addCondiments();

    void boilWater() {
        // implementation
    }

    void pourInCup() {
        // implementation
    }

}
```

prepareRecipe() is our **template method**. Why?

Because:

(1) It is a method, after all.

(2) It serves as a template for an algorithm, in this case, an algorithm for making caffeinated beverages.

In the template, each step of the algorithm is represented by a method.

Some methods are handled by this class...

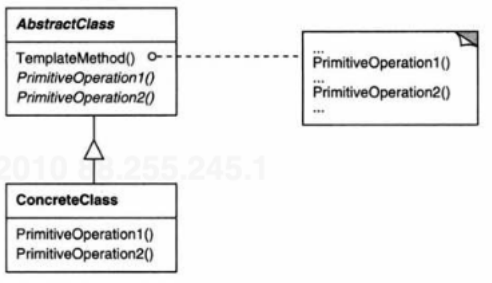
...and some are handled by the subclass.

The methods that need to be supplied by a subclass are declared abstract.

Applicability

- The Template Method pattern should be used
  - to implement the invariant parts of an algorithm once and leave it up to subclasses to implement the behavior that can vary.
  - when common behavior among subclasses should be factored and localized in a common class to avoid code duplication.

Structure



Consequences

- code reuse
  - factor out common behavior in library classes.
- Inversion of control
  - Hollywood principle