

Break statement in Java

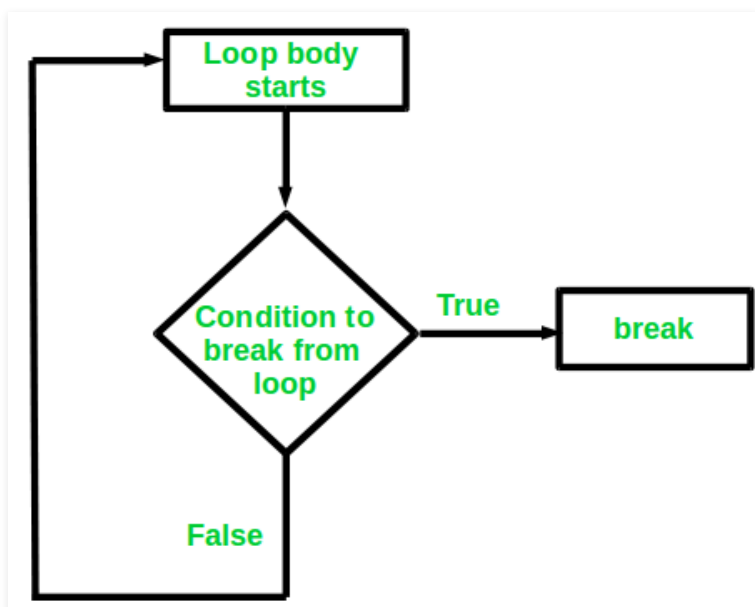
Difficulty Level : Easy Last Updated : 17 Feb, 2021

Break Statement is a loop control statement that is used to terminate the loop. As soon as the break statement is encountered from within a loop, the loop iterations stop there, and control returns from the loop immediately to the first statement after the loop.

Syntax:

```
break;
```

Basically, break statements are used in situations when we are not sure about the actual number of iterations for the loop or we want to terminate the loop based on some condition.



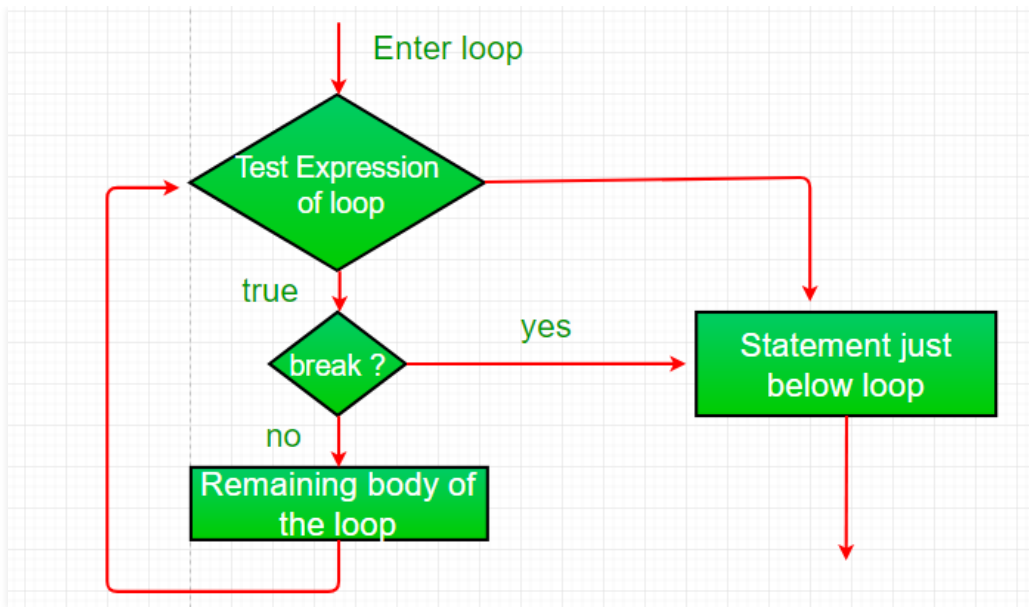
Break: In Java, the break is majorly used for:

- Terminate a sequence in a switch statement (discussed above).
- To exit a loop.
- Used as a “civilized” form of goto.

Using break to exit a Loop

Using break, we can force immediate termination of a loop, bypassing the conditional expression and any remaining code in the body of the loop.

Note: Break, when used inside a set of nested loops, will only break out of the innermost loop.



Example:

```
// Java program to illustrate using
// break to exit a loop
class BreakLoopDemo {
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        // Initially loop is set to run from 0-9
        for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
            // terminate loop when i is 5.
            if (i == 5)
                break;

            System.out.println("i: " + i);
        }
        System.out.println("Loop complete.");
    }
}
```

Output:

```
i: 0
i: 1
i: 2
i: 3
```

```
i: 4
```

```
Loop complete.
```

Using break as a Form of Goto

Java does not have a goto statement because it provides a way to branch in an arbitrary and unstructured manner. Java uses the label. A Label is used to identify a block of code.

Syntax:

```
label:  
{  
    statement1;  
    statement2;  
    statement3;  
    .  
    .  
}
```

Now, break statement can be used to jump out of target block.

Note: You cannot break to any label which is not defined for an enclosing block.

Syntax:

```
break label;
```

Example:

```
// Java program to illustrate  
// using break with goto  
class BreakLabelDemo {  
    public static void main(String args[])  
    {  
        boolean t = true;  
  
        // label first  
        first : {  
  
            // Illegal statement here  
            // as label second is not  
            // introduced yet break second;  

```

```
second : {  
third : {  
    // Before break  
    System.out.println("Before the break statement");  
  
    // break will take the control out of  
    // second label  
    if (t)  
        break second;  
    System.out.println("This won't execute.");  
}  
    System.out.println("This won't execute.");  
}  
  
    // First block  
    System.out.println("This is after second block.");  
}  
}
```

Output:

Before the break statement.

This is after the second block.

Related Articles:

- [Decision making in Java](#)
- [Break statement in C++](#)