

## 1. What is a Class?

A **class** in Python is a blueprint for creating objects (a particular data structure). Classes encapsulate data for the object (attributes) and functions (methods) to operate on that data.

```
class MyClass:
```

```
    # Class attribute (shared across all instances)
```

```
    class_attribute = "I am a class attribute"
```

```
    # Constructor (initializes object attributes)
```

```
    def __init__(self, attribute_value):
```

```
        self.instance_attribute = attribute_value # instance attribute (unique to
each object)
```

```
    # Method (function inside a class)
```

```
    def my_method(self):
```

```
        return f"Instance attribute is {self.instance_attribute}"
```

## 3. Creating an Object (Instance) from a Class:

```
# Create an instance (object) of MyClass
```

```
my_object = MyClass("Hello, World!")
```

```
# Accessing attributes and methods
```

```
print(my_object.instance_attribute) # Output: Hello, World!
```

```
print(my_object.my_method()) # Output: Instance attribute is Hello, World!
```

#### 4. Class Attributes vs. Instance Attributes:

- **Class attributes** are shared across all instances of a class.
- **Instance attributes** are specific to the object and set in the `__init__` method.

```
class Example:
```

```
    class_attr = "Shared value" # Class attribute
```

```
    def __init__(self, instance_attr_value):
```

```
        self.instance_attr = instance_attr_value # Instance attribute
```

```
obj1 = Example("Instance 1")
```

```
obj2 = Example("Instance 2")
```

```
print(obj1.class_attr) # Shared value
```

```
print(obj2.class_attr) # Shared value
```

```
print(obj1.instance_attr) # Instance 1
```

```
print(obj2.instance_attr) # Instance 2
```

## 5. Methods in Classes:

- **Instance methods:** Operate on object instances. They can access and modify instance attributes. Defined with `self`.
- **Class methods:** Operate on the class itself, not instances. Defined using `@classmethod` and take `cls` as the first parameter.
- **Static methods:** Don't modify object state or class state. Defined using `@staticmethod` and take no mandatory parameters.

```
class MyClass:
```

```
    # Class method
```

```
    @classmethod
```

```
    def class_method(cls):
```

```
        return "This is a class method"
```

```
    # Static method
```

```
    @staticmethod
```

```
    def static_method():
```

```
        return "This is a static method"
```

```
# Calling methods
```

```
print(MyClass.class_method()) # Class method can be called using the class  
name
```

```
print(MyClass.static_method()) # Static method can be called using the class  
name
```

## 6. Encapsulation (Public vs. Private):

- By convention, attributes or methods starting with a single underscore `_` are treated as **protected** (shouldn't be accessed directly outside the class).
- Attributes or methods with two underscores `__` are **private** (name-mangled to avoid direct access from outside).

```
class MyClass:
    def __init__(self):
        self._protected_attribute = "This is protected"
        self.__private_attribute = "This is private"

    def access_private(self):
        return self.__private_attribute

obj = MyClass()
print(obj._protected_attribute) # Works, but not recommended
# print(obj.__private_attribute) # This will raise an AttributeError
print(obj.access_private()) # Accessing private via method
```

## 7. Inheritance:

- **Inheritance** allows a class (child class) to inherit attributes and methods from another class (parent class).
- The `super()` function is used to call methods of the parent class.

```
class ParentClass:
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name

    def greet(self):
        return f"Hello, {self.name}!"

class ChildClass(ParentClass):
```

```
def __init__(self, name, age):  
    super().__init__(name) # Inherit from ParentClass  
    self.age = age
```

```
def show_age(self):  
    return f"I am {self.age} years old"
```

```
child = ChildClass("Alice", 20)  
print(child.greet()) # Hello, Alice!  
print(child.show_age()) # I am 20 years old
```

## 8. Polymorphism:

Polymorphism allows different classes to be treated the same way by defining common methods

## 9. Dunder (Double Underscore) Methods (Magic Methods):

- Special methods with double underscores are used to define behavior for built-in operations (e.g., `__init__`, `__str__`, `__len__`)

```
class MyClass:  
    def __init__(self, value):  
        self.value = value  
  
    def __str__(self):  
        return f"MyClass with value {self.value}"
```

```
obj = MyClass(10)  
print(obj) # Output: MyClass with value 10
```