

Introduction

For writing any java program the most commonly required package is `java.lang`.

Example:

```
Class Test {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        System.out.println("Hello World");  
    }  
}
```

In the previous example we depends on `java.lang` to create:

- the class `Test` because every class inherits from class `Object`.
- `String`, because the `String` class exists in `java.lang`.
- `System`, also exists in `java.lang`.

For writing any java program whether it is simple or complex, the most commonly and interfaces are grouped into a separate package which `java.lang`.

We are not required to import `java.lang` explicitly because all class and interfaces are available by default to every java program.

`java.lang.Object`:

- The most commonly required methods (whether they are predefined or customer classes) are defined in a separate class which is nothing but `Object` class.
- Every class in java is a `child` class of object either directly or indirectly, so that `object` class methods available to every java class.
- `Object` class is considered as **root** for all java class.

NOTE:

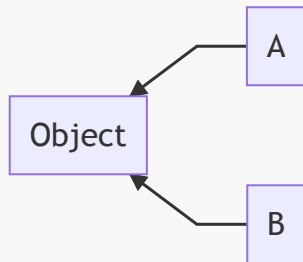
- If our class doesn't extend any class then only our class is a direct child of `Object`.
- **Example:**

```
Class A {  
  
}
```

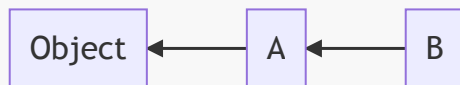


- A is the child class of `Object`.
- If our class extends any other class, then our class **indirect** child of `Object`.

```
Class A extends B {  
  
}
```



This is called *multiple inheritance* which is **ILLEGAL**.



This is called *multi-level inheritance* which is **LEGAL**. **Conclusion:**

- either directly or indirectly, java doesn't provide support multi inheritance with respect to class.

Object class methods:

- Object class defines the following 11 methods:

1. `public String toString()`
2. `public native int hashCode()`
3. `public boolean equals(Object o)`
4. `protected native Object clone() throws CloneNotSupportedException`
5. `protected void finalize() throws Throwable`
6. `public final Class getClass()`
7. `public final void wait() throws InterruptedException`
8. `public final native void wait(long ms) throws InterruptedException`
9. `public final void wait(long ms, int ns) throws InterruptedException`
10. `public native final void notify()`
11. `public native final void notifyAll()`

- To check the methods in a given class we can use:

```
import java.lang.reflect.*
class Test {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
        int count = 0;
        Class c = Class.forName("java.lang.Object");
        Method[] m = c.getDeclaredMethods();
        for (Method m1 : m) {
            System.out.println(m1.getName());
        }
        System.out.println("The number of methods:" + count);
    }
}
```

toString():

- We can use `toString()` method to get a string representation of an object, `String s = obj.toString()`.
- Whenever we are trying to print object reference, internally `toString()` method will be called.
- *Example:*
`Student s = new Student()`
`System.out.println(s);` <=> `System.out.println(s.toString())`
- If our class doesn't contain `toString()` method, then *Object* class `toString()` method will be executed.

```
class Student {
    String name;
    int rollno,
    Student (String name, int rollno) {
        this.name = name;
        this.rollno = rollno;
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Student s1 = new Student ("Ahmed", 101);
        Student s2 = new Student ("John", 102);

        System.out.println(s1);
        System.out.println(s1.toString());
        System.out.println(s2);
    }
}
```

output:

- Student@1888759
- Student@1888759
- Student@6e1408

In the previous example, Object class `toString()` method got executed, which is implemented as follows:

```
public String toString() {
    return getClass().getName() + "@" + Integer.toHexString(hashCode());
}
```

classname@hashCode_in_hexadecimal_form

Overriding toString():

- based on our requirements we can *override* `toString()` method to provide our own representation.

```
@Override
public String toString() {
    return "Student name: " + name + "\nStudent rollno: " + rollno;
}
```

Wrapper classes:

- In all wrapper classes and collection classes, string class, string buffer and builder class `toString()` is overridden for meaningful string representation. Hence, it's highly recommended to override `toString()` in our class as well.

```
import java.util.ArrayList
class Test {
    public String toString() {
        return "This is a test";
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = new String("Ahmed");
        System.out.println(s); => ahmed

        Integer i = new Integer(10);
        System.out.println(i); => 10

        ArrayList l = new ArrayList();
        l.add("A");
        l.add("B");
        System.out.println(l); => [A, B]

        Test t = new Test();
        System.out.println(t); => This is a test
    }
}
```