Generics Introduction

Welcome to another new section, on another important topic in Java.

This one is on generics.

By now, if you've been doing this course in order, you're familiar with generalizing, conceptually, your own class design.

You pull out what things your classes have in common, so that you can think about them generally.

Generics allow us to create classes, to design them, in a general way, without really worrying about the specific details of the elements they might contain.

Java's ArrayLists are an example of a generic class.

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We can use an ArrayList for any type of object, because many of the methods on that class can be applied to any type.

Let's jump in, and see how to create generic types, and examine how to use them and when you might choose to use them.