Lesson 1 FAQs

> **Q:** Will this Java class enable me to get a job as a programmer?

A: This class is a start toward that goal. However, entry-level programmers on a job are expected to know more than this class has time to cover. You can follow up with more classes and online tutorials that will get you ready for a job in programming.

> **Q:** I've never done any programming. Will I be able to understand the material in this course?

A: This class doesn't assume *any* prior knowledge. We'll start with the most basic concepts and build on them, so you shouldn't have any trouble due to lack of experience. And if you have questions, the Discussion Area is the place to ask them.

> **Q:** Is it possible to develop Java programs on computers running another operating system? If so, how do I get started?

A: Of course! You can write Java programs on Windows, Mac, Linux, and other operating systems. The procedures are similar enough that it shouldn't be too hard for you to figure things out. The Java language is identical regardless of which operating system you use.

You'll find links to different versions of the JDK at [Oracle (http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html)](http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html), the page we downloaded from.

> **Q:** I don't know what Zip files are or how they work. Would you explain them to me?

A: *Zipping* files compresses the data they contain. This makes the files take up less disk space and reduces the time it takes to transfer and download them.

Windows Users: In Windows, you can typically unzip a file by right-clicking its icon and choosing **Extract All**. Then just follow the on-screen instructions.

If you have an earlier operating system, you'll need to download a program for dealing with the Zip files we'll be using. The most common program for this is WinZip. Unfortunately, this program is free for only 45 days. After that, you have to pay $29.95 to continue using it.

For more information about WinZip and about Zip files in general, visit [WinZip (http://www.winzip.com/aboutzip.htm)](http://www.winzip.com/aboutzip.htm).

To download the free 45-day evaluation version of WinZip, go to [WinZip (http://www.winzip.com/downwz.htm)](http://www.winzip.com/downwz.htm).

There are lots of free Zip utility programs. To find one, I suggest you visit Tᴜᴄᴏᴡꜱ [(http://www.tucows.com/)](http://www.tucows.com/) and click the **Looking for downloads?** link. When the downloads page comes up, type *Zip* into the field next to the magnifying glass. This will take you to a page of free, downloadable Zip programs. You can then read the user ratings and decide which one you'd like.

Mac Users: On most Macs, when you download a zip file, its contents are extracted automatically so you don't even see the zip file. However, in the event that you do end with a .zip file that doesn't decompress automatically, you can right-click the .zip file and choose **Open With > Archive Utility (default)**.