

Lesson 10 FAQs

Q: Iterators seem complicated. Isn't there an easier way to traverse a collection in Java?

A: As we saw in an earlier lesson, and will see again in a future one, there is another way to traverse a collection and process every element in it. The way to do it is with the for-each loop, which retrieves each collection element once for us in one simple statement.

The for-each loop has some disadvantages, though. You cannot delete elements from the collection in a for-each loop because that makes it unpredictable, but you can use an iterator to add or delete elements. A for-each loop also will not allow you to remember its position in the collection while you wait for a user. The for-each loop simply runs through the collection from start to finish; it can't stop its retrieval and then pick it up again later.