

Java Method Overriding with Exception Handling

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There are few things to remember when overriding a method with exception handling because method of super class may have exception declared. In this scenario, there can be possible two cases: either method of super class can declare exception or not.

If super class method declared exception then the method of sub class may declare same exception class, sub exception class or no exception but can not parent of exception class.

For example, if a method of super class declared ArithmeticException then method of subclass may declare ArithmeticException, its subclass or no exception but cannot declare its super/parent class like: Exception class.

In other scenario, if super class method does not declare any exception, then sub class overridden method cannot declare checked exception but it can declare unchecked exceptions. Lets see an example.

Method overriding in Subclass with Checked Exception

Checked exception is the exception which is expected or known to occur at compile time hence they must be handled at compile time.

```
import java.io.*;

class Super
{
    void show() {
        System.out.println("parent class");
    }
}

public class Sub extends Super
{
    void show() throws IOException //Compile time error
    {
        System.out.println("parent class");
    }

    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Super s=new Sub();
    }
}
```

In the example above, the method `show()` doesn't throw any exception when its declared/defined in the `Super` class, hence its overridden version in the class `Sub` also cannot throw any checked exception.

If we try to do so, we will get a **compile time error**.

Method overriding in Subclass with UnChecked Exception

Unchecked Exceptions are the exception which extend the class `RuntimeException` and are thrown as a result of some runtime error.

```
import java.io.*;

class Super
{
    void show() {
        System.out.println("parent class");
    }
}

class Sub extends Super
{
    void show() throws ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
    {
        System.out.println("child class");
    }

    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Super s = new Sub();
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

child class

Because `ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException` is an unchecked exception hence, overridden `show()` method can throw it.

More about Overridden Methods and Exceptions

If Super class method throws an exception, then Subclass overridden method can throw the same exception or no exception, but must not throw parent exception or the exception thrown by Super class method.

It means, if Super class method throws object of `NullPointerException` class, then Subclass method can either throw same exception, or can throw no exception, but it can never throw object of `Exception` class (parent of `NullPointerException` class).

Example of Subclass overridden method with same Exception

Method of a sub class can declare same exception as declared in the super class. See the below example.

```
import java.io.*;
class Super
{
    void show() throws Exception
    {
        System.out.println("parent class");
    }
}

public class Sub extends Super {
    void show() throws Exception //Correct
    {
        System.out.println("child class");
    }

    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        try {
            Super s=new Sub();
            s.show();
        }
        catch(Exception e){}
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

child class

Example of Subclass overridden method with no Exception

It is optional to declare the exception in sub class during overriding. If method of super class declared an exception then it is upto the subclass to declare exception or not. See the below example.

```
import java.io.*;
class Super
{
    void show() throws Exception
    {
        System.out.println("parent class");
    }
}

public class Sub extends Super {
    void show() //Correct
    {
        System.out.println("child class");
    }

    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        try {
            Super s=new Sub();
            s.show();
        }
        catch(Exception e){}
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

Compile time error

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