Java Error Cheatsheet for Rust-Brained Hackers

1. cannot find symbol

Meaning: Referencing something unknown to the compiler - wrong variable, method not declared, class not imported.

Fix: Add the correct import, check spelling, or define what you're referencing.

2. class, interface, enum, or record expected

Meaning: You tried to declare a method, class, or variable outside of a class.

Fix: Move the code inside a class.

3. illegal start of expression

Meaning: You wrote something unexpected, like a method inside another method.

Fix: Declare methods outside of other methods.

4. incompatible types

Meaning: Assigned a value of one type to a variable of another.

Fix: Use matching types or cast appropriately.

5. missing return statement

Meaning: Some code paths do not return a value.

Fix: Ensure all branches return a value.

6. variable might not have been initialized

Meaning: Variable declared but not given a value before use.

Fix: Initialize variables before use.

7. exception X is never thrown in body of corresponding try statement

Meaning: Catching an exception that is not thrown.

Fix: Remove the catch or throw a related exception.

8. non-static variable X cannot be referenced from a static context

Meaning: Static method accessing instance data.

Fix: Make the variable static or create an instance.

Rust vs Java Error Mindset

Rust	Java
Precise, compiler as teacher	**Cryptic, compiler as annoyed parent**

borrow of moved value	cannot find symbol
expected type but found other	incompatible types
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