**How to clone an ArrayList to another ArrayList**

[**JAVA COLLECTIONS**](http://beginnersbook.com/category/java-collections/)

In this tutorial we will learn how to clone an ArrayList to another one. We would be using [**clone() method**](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/ArrayList.html#clone()) of ArrayList class to serve our purpose.

Object clone()

This method returns a shallow copy of the ArrayList instance.

**Complete example of ArrayList Cloning**

In this example we have an ArrayList of String type and we are cloning it to another ArrayList using clone() method. The interesting point to see here is when we added and removed few elements from original ArrayList after the clone() method, the cloned ArrayList didn’t get affected. It shows that clone() method just returns a shallow copy of ArrayList.

package beginnersbook.com;

import java.util.ArrayList;

public class Details {

public static void main(String a[]){

ArrayList<String> al = new ArrayList<String>();

//Adding elements to the ArrayList

al.add("Apple");

al.add("Orange");

al.add("Mango");

al.add("Grapes");

System.out.println("ArrayList: "+al);

ArrayList<String> al2 = (ArrayList<String>)al.clone();

System.out.println("Shallow copy of ArrayList: "+ al2);

//add and remove on original ArrayList

al.add("Fig");

al.remove("Orange");

//Display of both ArrayLists after add & remove

System.out.println("Original ArrayList:"+al);

System.out.println("Cloned ArrayList:"+al2);

}

}

Output:

ArrayList: [Apple, Orange, Mango, Grapes]

Shallow copy of ArrayList: [Apple, Orange, Mango, Grapes]

Original ArrayList:[Apple, Mango, Grapes, Fig]

Cloned ArrayList:[Apple, Orange, Mango, Grapes]