**Java – String split() Method example**

[**STRING HANDLING**](http://beginnersbook.com/category/string-handling/)

The method split() is used for splitting a String into its substrings based on the given delimiter/[**regular expression**](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html#sum). This method has two variants:

String[] split(String regex): It returns an array of strings after splitting an input String based on the delimiting regular expression.  
String[] split(String regex, int limit): The only difference between above variation and this one is that it limits the number of strings returned after split up. For e.g. split("anydelimiter", 3) would return the array of only 3 strings even through the delimiter is present in the string more than 3 times. If the **limit is negative** then the returned array would be having as many substrings as possible however when the **limit is zero**then the returned array would be having all the substrings excluding the trailing empty Strings.

It throws [**PatternSyntaxException**](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/regex/PatternSyntaxException.html) if the syntax of specified regular expression is not valid.

**Example: split() method**

public class SplitExample{

public static void main(String args[]){

String str = new String("28/12/2013");

System.out.println("split(String regex):");

String array1[]= str.split("/");

for (String temp: array1){

System.out.println(temp);

}

System.out.println("split(String regex, int limit) with limit=2:");

String array2[]= str.split("/", 2);

for (String temp: array2){

System.out.println(temp);

}

System.out.println("split(String regex, int limit) with limit=0:");

String array3[]= str.split("/", 0);

for (String temp: array3){

System.out.println(temp);

}

System.out.println("split(String regex, int limit) with limit=-5:");

String array4[]= str.split("/", -5);

for (String temp: array4){

System.out.println(temp);

}

}

}

Output:

split(String regex):

28

12

2013

split(String regex, int limit) with limit=2:

28

12/2013

split(String regex, int limit) with limit=0:

28

12

2013

split(String regex, int limit) with limit=-5:

28

12

2013

In the above example split(“/”,0) and split(“/”,-5) returned same value however in some cases the result would be different. Lets see with the help of an example:

String s="bbaaccaa";

String arr1[]= s.split("a", -1);

String arr2[]= s.split("a", 0);

In this case arr1 would be having {“bb”, ” “, “cc”, ” “, ” “} However arr2 would be having {“bb”, ” “, “cc”} because limit zero excludes trialing empty Strings.