Classes in Java

**Class** − A class can be defined as a template/blueprint that describes the behavior/state that the object of its type support.

A class is a blueprint from which individual objects are created.

Following is a sample of a class.

Example

public class Dog {

String breed;

int age;

String color;

void barking() {

}

void hungry() {

}

void sleeping() {

}

}

A class can contain any of the following variable types.

* **Local variables** − Variables defined inside methods, constructors or blocks are called local variables. The variable will be declared and initialized within the method and the variable will be destroyed when the method has completed.
* **Instance variables** − Instance variables are variables within a class but outside any method. These variables are initialized when the class is instantiated. Instance variables can be accessed from inside any method, constructor or blocks of that particular class.
* **Class variables** − Class variables are variables declared within a class, outside any method, with the static keyword.

A class can have any number of methods to access the value of various kinds of methods. In the above example, barking(), hungry() and sleeping() are methods.

Following are some of the important topics that need to be discussed when looking into classes of the Java Language.