Hello, World!

Whenever you learn a new programming language, the first program you will ever write is called a “Hello World” Program. It helps you get a first idea of what the language is like, what the syntax is, and if there are any basic tricks you should know about.

The other important part of a Hello World program is that it shows you how to print to the console, which in the future will become very helpful to you when you are trying to fix a problem in your code.

This is a standard Hello World program, written in Java:

public class HelloWorld

{

public static void main(String[] args)

{

System.out.println(“Hello, World!”);

}

}

Go ahead and type this into jGrasp, then compile it, save the file, and run it. If you want, you can experiment by changing things in the program, and see what happens.

You’ll learn more about what everything means in more detail later, but here is a quick explanation.

The first line is a standard class declaration in Java. The class is public, which means anything can access it. “HelloWorld” is the name of the class. In Java, the name of the class has to be the name of the file, so make sure your file is saved as HelloWorld.java.

Every program that runs, which just means that it executes and actually does something, has to have a main method. Putting curly braces after the main method means that whatever is inside of them is part of the method, so it will execute when the program runs.

Finally, in order to get the program to write something in the console, which is just the part at the bottom that programs can print text to, you have to call the print method. This is telling the computer to print whatever is inside of the parenthesis. Using println() instead of just print() causes the computer to print everything in a new line. A semicolon is how you tell the computer to end the command, kind of like a period in a sentence.

Another useful part of a Hello World program is to show you what can cause errors. Computers are very picky when it comes to syntax. If you capitalize something you shouldn’t, spell something wrong, or forget a semicolon, the computer won’t be able to understand the code and will have an error.