

2. Objects and Classes II :: Nested Classes :: Local Classes

A **local class** is a special type of **inner class** and is a class that is declared within a **block** (a block or **compound statement** is a group of zero or more statements enclosed in a pair of braces). Most typically, a local class will be declared in the block comprising the body of a method:

```
public class C {  
    // Declaration of C instance variables ...  
    // Declaration of C instance methods ...  
    public void someMethod() {  
        // Declaration of local variables in someMethod() ...  
        // Declare a local class named LocalClass. Note that no accessibility modifier  
        // is written since the scope of LocalClass is someMethod().  
        class LocalClass {  
            // Declaration of LocalClass instance variables ...  
            // Declaration of LocalClass instance methods ...  
        }  
        // Statements in someMethod() ...  
        // Instantiate a LocalClass object.  
        LocalClass aLocalClassObject = new LocalClass();  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

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Like inner classes, a local class has access to the instance variables and methods of the outer class. Furthermore, because a local class is nested within a method, it also has access to local constants declared in the method (it **does not** have access to local variables).

Local classes are declared in a block when the only place in the code where the local class is needed is within *that* block.