

THE JAVA "OBJECT" CLASS

THE OBJECT CLASS, A JAVA BUILT-IN CLASS,
SITS AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS HIERARCHY TREE

THIS MEANS THAT EVERY CLASS IN JAVA,
WRITTEN BY YOU OR BY ANYONE ELSE,
INHERITS FROM THE "OBJECT" CLASS

**".EQUALS()" IS A BUILT-IN
FUNCTION THAT TESTS TWO
OBJECTS FOR EQUALITY**

**".ToString()" RETURNS A STRING
REPRESENTATION OF THE OBJECT**

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SITS AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS HIERARCHY TREE

(REMEMBER HOW
"GARBAGE COLLECTION"
MAKES JAVA DIFFERENT
FROM C AND C++)

THIS MEANS THAT EVERY CLASS IN JAVA,
WRITTEN BY YOU OR BY ANYONE ELSE,
INHERITS FROM THE "OBJECT" CLASS

".EQUALS()" IS A BUILT-IN
FUNCTION THAT TESTS TWO
OBJECTS FOR EQUALITY

THE DEFAULT IMPLEMENTATION
OF ".FINALIZE()" IS BLANK, BUT
OVERRIDE IT IF YOUR OBJECT
HAS ANY RESOURCES THAT
NEED CLEANING UP
(EG FILES TO BE CLOSED!)

THAT IN TURN MEANS THAT EVERY CLASS
GETS, FOR FREE, IMPLEMENTATIONS OF
SEVERAL FUNCTIONS

".FINALIZE()" IS A MEMBER FUNCTION
THAT WILL BE CALLED WHEN THE OBJECT
IS ABOUT TO CEASE TO EXIST
(BE GARBAGE COLLECTED)

".TOSTRING()" RETURNS A STRING
REPRESENTATION OF THE OBJECT

IN CLASSES THAT YOU WRITE, NEVER BE SHY
IN OVERRIDING MEMBER FUNCTIONS
OF THE OBJECT CLASS AS YOU NEED TO!