



Ruby 101

Ruby Basics:Using Classes

Classes: What are they?

Generic description of a kind of object

Structures for the data that belong to specific objects of a kind

Definitions for the relationship of the data used in the parts of a program

System for creating specific objects called *Instances*



Classes that we have already seen:

Array, Hash, all the variable types.

irb

```
my_array = []  
my_array = Array.new
```



Classes:

- variable definitions
- method definitions

"Array" class definition includes the "each" method definition

Instances:

- variables with values assigned
- represent specific objects, instead of types of objects

```
my_array.each ...
```



Multiple instances of the same class can coexist.

```
my_first_array = Array.new  
my_second_array = Array.new
```

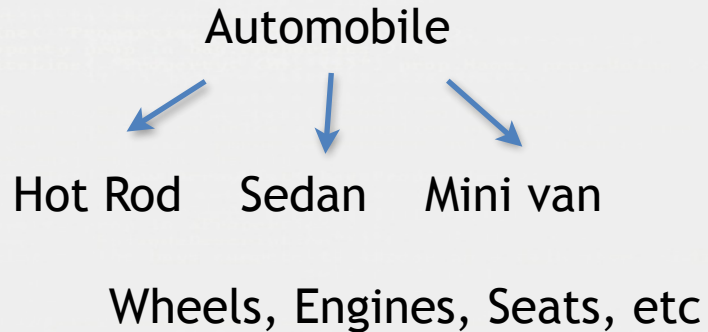
```
my_first_array[0] = 1  
my_second_array[0] = 2
```

```
my_first_array != my_second_array
```



Classes: Inheritance

Classes can include the properties of other classes:



Classes: Inheritance

`.class`

reveal the name of the class of the object invoked upon

`.superclass`

reveal the class that the current class inherits from

`1.class => Fixnum`

`1.class.superclass => Integer`

`1.class.superclass.superclass => Numeric`

`1.class.superclass.superclass.superclass => Object`

