

Coding Standard - 3

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1. Naming Convention:

1.1 Classes and Interfaces:

- Class names should be treated as nouns, capitalized first letters in all internal words, and written in mixed cases.
- Similar to class names, interface names must also be capitalized. Avoid using acronyms and abbreviations and instead use complete words.

Example:

Classes: <code>class Student {}</code> <code>class Integer {}</code> <code>class Scanner {}</code>	Interfaces : <code>Runnable</code> <code>Remote</code> <code>Serializable</code>
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1.2 Methods:

- Methods should be verbs, written in mixed case with each internal word's first letter uppercase and the first letter lowercase.

Example:

```
public static void main(String [] args) {}  
    void calculateTax() {}  
    string getSurname() {}
```

1.3 Variables:

- Short yet descriptive names are ideal for variables.
- Should be mnemonic, meaning that it should be made to make clear to the untrained eye what its intended usage is.
- All but temporary variables should avoid using single-character variable names.
- For integers, common names for temporary variables are i, j, k, m, and n; for characters, they are c, d, and e.
- Despite the fact that both underscore (_) and dollar sign (\$) characters are acceptable, variable names shouldn't begin with them.
- Names should be in mixed case.

Example:

```
string firstName int orderNumber  
int[] marks;
```

1.4 Constant:

- Words should be grouped together using underscores ("_") and all capitalized.
- Float, Long, String, and other predefined classes employ a variety of constants.

Example:

```
static final int DEFAULT_WIDTH  
static final int MAX_HEIGHT
```

1.5 Packages:

- A unique package name should always begin with one of the top-level domain names, such as com, edu, gov, mil, net, or org, and should always be written in all lowercase ASCII letters.
- The package name's later parts differ based on the internal naming standards of the organization.

Example:

```
java.util.Scanner ;  
java.io.*;  
package com.mycompany.utilities ;
```

2. Comment and Documentation:

2.1 Block Comments:

- Descriptions of files, procedures, data structures, and algorithms are given in block comments.
- One can use block comments before each method and at the start of each file also applicable in other contexts, such techniques.
- The amount of indentation for block comments inside a function or method should match that of the code they explain.
- To distinguish a block comment from the rest of the code, it should come before a blank line.

Example:

```
/*  
  
 * Here is a block comment.  
  
*/
```

2.2 Single line Comments:

- Short comments can appear on a single line indented to the level of the code that follows
- If a comment can't be written in a single line, it should follow the block comment format

Example:

```
if (condition) { /* Handle the condition. */  
    ...  
}
```

2.3. Trailing Comments:

- Very short comments can appear on the same line as the code they describe.
- Should be shifted far enough to separate them from the statements.

Example:

```
if (a == 2) {return TRUE;           /* special case */  
} else {  
    return isPrime(a);           /* works only for odd a */  
}
```

2.4 Temporary Removing Code:

- A full line or just a portion of a line can be commented out using the // comment delimiter.

Example:

```
if (foo > 1) {// Do a double-flip.
...
}
else {
return false;           // Explain why here.
}
//if (bar > 1) {
//
//    // Do a triple-flip.
//    ...
//}
//else {
//    return false;
//}
```

3. Exception Handling:

- Use exceptions only for unexpected or exceptional conditions, not for flow control situations.
- Avoid using exceptions in place of logic checks.

Example:

```
public class SimpleTryCatch {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        try {  
            int result = 10 / 0; // This will throw an  
ArithmeticException  
            System.out.println("Result: " + result);  
        } catch (ArithmeticException e) {  
            System.out.println("Error: Division by zero  
is not allowed.");  
        } } }
```

4. Import Format:

- **Static imports** (if any) should come after regular imports.
- Group imports logically:
 - **Standard Java library imports** (e.g., java.util.*)
 - **Third-party library imports** (e.g., org.apache.*)
 - **Project-specific imports** (your own classes)

Example:

```
import java.util.List;  
import java.util.ArrayList;  
  
import org.apache.commons.lang3.StringUtils;  
  
import com.myproject.MyClass;
```

5. URL Format:

- The java.net.URL class can be used to represent a URL (Uniform site Locator), which is a reference to a web site in Java.

Example:

```
URL url = new  
URL("https://www.example.com:8080/docs/resource.html?name=test  
#section1");
```

6. Whitespace and indentation:

- For indentation, use four spaces. To make code blocks easier to understand, leave enough white space between them.

Example:

```
if (x > y) {  
    x = y;  
} else {  
    y = x;  
}
```

7. Line Length:

- To improve readability, keep line lengths to 80 characters or less. Longer lines can be divided into several lines.

Example:

```
String longLine = "This is a very long line of code that  
should be broken "  
+  
"up into multiple lines for better readability.";
```

8. Braces Usage:

- Even for single-line control structures, always use braces.

Example:

```
if (x > y) {  
    x = y;  
}
```

9. File Organization:

- There should only be one top-level class or interface per source file. The class name and the file name ought to coincide.

Example:

`Student.java` should only contain the **Student** class.

10. Favor Composition Over Inheritance:

- Instead of relying heavily on inheritance, use composition when a class needs functionality from another class, as it provides better flexibility.

Example:

```
// Inheritance (Less flexible):
class Engine {
    public void start() {
        System.out.println("Engine started");
    }
}

class Car extends Engine {
    // Car inherits Engine functionality
}

}
```

```
// Composition (More flexible):
class Engine {
    public void start() {
        System.out.println("Engine started");
    }
}

class Car {
    private Engine engine;

    public Car() {
        this.engine = new Engine();
    }

    public void startCar() {
        engine.start();
    }
}
```

11. Proper Use of Access Modifiers:

- To ensure encapsulation, use the relevant access modifier (private, protected, or public). Make fields private unless absolutely required.

Example:

```
// Bad Practice:
public int age;

// Good Practice:
private int age;

public int getAge() {
    return age;
}

public void setAge(int age) {
    this.age = age;
}
```

12. Code Modularity:

- Break code into smaller, reusable modules (methods or classes) that do one specific thing. Each method should ideally have a single responsibility.

Example:

```
// Instead of doing everything in one method:
public void processOrder() {
    checkInventory();
    calculateTotal();
    applyDiscount();
    generateInvoice();
}

// Break down into separate methods:
public void processOrder() {
    checkInventory();
    calculateTotal();
    applyDiscount();
    generateInvoice();
}

private void checkInventory() { ... }
private void calculateTotal() { ... }
private void applyDiscount() { ... }
private void generateInvoice() { ... }
```

Reference:

1. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/java-naming-conventions/>
2. <https://www.thoughtco.com/using-java-naming-conventions-2034199>
3. <https://www.oracle.com/java/technologies/javase/codeconventions-communications.html>
4. https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E82085_01/150/funtional_artifacts_guide/or-fasg-standards.htm