



CLASS 2: INTRO TO RUBY CORE CLASSES

AGENDA

- Using Ruby Core Classes
 - Strings
 - Arrays
- Using Ruby Documentation



RUBY STRINGS

- First Ruby Surprise: Ruby strings are mutable!
 - `str="Hello!"`
 - `str.tr("e", "i")`
- Second Surprise: many Array and Enumerable methods work on strings too!
 - They can be thought of as arrays of characters.
 - `str.chars`.
 - `str.chars.each{|c| p c}`
- Third Surprise: some arithmetic operators do interesting things to strings.
 - `*` repeats a string
 - `"Ruby! " * 3`
 - `<<` appends to the end of a string
 - `"Ruby" << " Rocks"`

USEFUL STRING METHODS

- Useful methods:
 - upcase
 - downcase
 - capitalize
 - split
 - slice
 - capitalize
 - tr
 - reverse
 - chars
- **The list of string methods is here:** <http://www.ruby-doc.org/core-2.1.2/String.html>

RUBY STRINGS

- **Using the documentation, find at least one way to do the following:**
 - Find the length of a string
 - Concatenate (add) two or more strings together
 - Split a string into pieces
 - Change the case of a string – capitalize it, change it all to upper case or to lower case, swap the cases, etc.
 - Reverse a string
 - Turn the string into an array of characters
 - Stick a prefix or a suffix on a string
 - Report on one other interesting and useful string method.



STRING PRACTICE

Given a string, replace all the vowels in the string with '*'

Input: "Hello, World!"

Output: "H*Ill*, W*rld!"



STRING INTERPOLATION

- Values of variables can be included in strings using `#{}`
 - Only works in strings delimited by double-quotes (`"`)
- Example to try:
 - `x = 42`
 - puts "The answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything is `#{x}`."

RUBY ARRAYS

- Ordered, integer-index collections of any object
- The first element of an array has an index of zero (0)
- A negative index starts at the end of the array
 - `arr[-1]` is the last element of the array.



CREATE A NEW ARRAY

- Declare empty array with
 - `Array.new`
 - `[]`
- Declare an array literal:
 - `a = [1,2,3,4]`



BASIC METHODS

- Basic methods:
 - join
 - pop
 - push
 - +
 - -
 - empty?,
 - include?
 - first
 - last
 - map or collect
 - reverse
 - sort

MORE ON ARRAYS

- Accessing elements of an array. Given the array [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]
 - Get the first element of the array
 - Get the last element of the array
 - Get the array [2,3,4,5]
- Find the number of elements in an array
- Determine if an array is empty
- See if an element is included in an array
- Add items to the end of an array.
- Add items to the beginning of an array
- Take items from the end of an array.
- Take items from the beginning of an array.
- Remove an item from inside an array.



MORE STUFF TO DO TO ARRAYS

- Remove duplicates from an array.
- Remove nil elements from an array.
- Given the array [2,4,6,8,10], produce the array [4,16,36,64,100]
- What does the flatten method do and when should it be used?
- What is the difference between each, each_index and each_with_index?
- List a couple of other methods you think will be useful in array handling.



PRACTICE #1

Given an array `a` where each element represents a string, return a new array with each of those elements appended with three dots (“...”).

Input: `a = [“Mercury”, “Gemini”, “Apollo”]`

Output: `[“Mercury...”, “Gemini...”, “Apollo...”]`



DESTRUCTIVE OPERATIONS

- Methods that end with ! (bang) usually change the array!
 - Many methods have a non-destructive and a destructive version.
 - reverse, reverse!
 - sort, sort!
 - collect, collect!
 - map, map!
 - The non-destructive version returns an array different from the original array.
 - The destructive version changes the array in place.



DESTRUCTIVE VS NON-DESTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE

- Example:
a = %w{one two three}
a.reverse
puts a
a.reverse!
puts a



SUMMARY

- We have looked at 2 Ruby core classes: Strings and Arrays
- Ruby documentation has good examples of methods available for both Strings and Arrays
- Important String methods:
 - Change the case of a string
 - Replace characters in a string
 - Find characters in a string
- Important Array methods:
 - Manipulate elements in an array.
 - Add and remove elements from an array.
 - Provide information about an array



NEXT CLASS

- More Ruby Core Classes
 - Hash
 - Enumerable
- The inject method
- Ruby syntax for making decisions
- Ruby syntax for loops



HOMEWORK - STRINGS

- Given a string, return true if it is a palindrome, false otherwise.
 - Remove blank spaces and punctuation using tr.
 - Use the ternary operator. (condition ? true_value : false_value)
- Example:
Given str = "Able was I ere I saw Elba"
- Expected result: true



HOMEWORK - ARRAYS

- Given an array of strings representing the first names of people in a class. Return an array with two elements: the first element is a new array with class members whose names begin a letter between “A” and “J”. The second element is a new array with those whose names begin with a letter between “K” and “Z” inclusive.
- Example
a=%w{ Annette Laura Louise Elizabeth Jessica Cheryl Janice Rebecca Kay Shannon AnnMarie Hailey Stephanie }
- Result: [[“Annette”, “Elizabeth”, ”Jessica”, ”Cheryl”, ”Janice”, “AnnMarie”,”Hailey”],[“Laura”, “Louise”, “Rebecca”, “Kay”, “Shannon”, “Stephanie”]]



APPENDIX

Juicy Ruby Tidbits