**COMMENTS IN JAVA**

As your programs get longer, you should use a comment at the top of your program to document the author of the code, the date the code was written, a version if applicable and the purpose of your program and you should comment blocks of code. This is important for yourself so that you keep track of what you are doing, but it is also important that you document source code as a member of a programming team, so that other members of the team don’t have to read through a lot of source code.

There are three ways to comment code in Java:

1. Anything from // to the end of a line is a comment. If the compiler sees //, it will ignore everything from after // to the end of the line.

E.g.

// This is a comment.

1. Anything from /\* to \*/ (can be over multiple lines) is a comment. If the compiler sees /\*, it will keep reading until it reaches a \*/ and then continue to check the syntax.

E.g.

/\*

Author: John Smith

Date: 20.09.2022

Description: This program calculates a person’s BMI and outputs their categorisation.

\*/

1. Anything from /\*\* to \*/ (can be over multiple lines) is a comment. The comment between /\*\* and \*/ can be used to generate external documentation on your code. If the compiler sees /\*\*, it will keep reading until it reaches a \*/ and then continue to check the syntax.

E.g.

/\*\*

Commands are as follows:

N: Move North

S: Move South

E: Move East

W: Move West

\*/

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# Exercise: Fill in the following table

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Comment | Syntax correct? | Reason if syntax is incorrect. |
| 1 | // Is this a comment | YES |  |
| 2 | /// Is this a comment | YES/NO | NOT NORMAL STANDARD |
| 3 | // Is this a comment // | NO | WONT FINISH THE COMMENT |
| 4 | /\* Is this a comment | NO | NOT CLOSING THE COMMENT BLOCK |
| 5 | /\* Is this a comment \*/ | YES |  |
| 6 | /\* Is this a comment spanning two lines \*/ | YES |  |
| 7 | /\* Is this a comment spanning two lines // | NO | NEED TO CLOSE COMMENT BLOCK |
| 8 | /\* Is this is a comment spanning \*/  /\* two lines \*/ | YES/NO | SEPARATE BLOCKS |
| 9 | /\* Is this a /\* and a nested \*/ comment  \*/ | YES /NO | NESTING NO NEEDED |
| 10 | /\*\* Is this a comment. \*/ | YES |  |
| 11 | /\*--------------------------------------  Is this is a comment  ----------------------------------------\*/ | YES |  |
| 12 | // Is this is a comment spanning two lines // | NO | DOUBLE SLASHES ARE FOR ONE LINE |
| 13 | /\*\* Is this a comment \*\*/ | YES |  |

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