

## 4.3 Pseudocode

**Pseudocode** is an informal language that helps you develop algorithms without having to worry about the strict details of Java language syntax. The pseudocode we present is particularly useful for developing algorithms that will be converted to structured portions of Java programs. The pseudocode we use in this book is similar to everyday English—it's convenient and user friendly, but it's not an actual computer programming language. You'll see an algorithm written in pseudocode in [Fig. 4.7](#). You may, of course, use your own native language(s) to develop your own pseudocode.

Pseudocode does not execute on computers. Rather, it helps you “think out” a program before attempting to write it in a programming language, such as Java. This chapter provides several examples of using pseudocode to develop Java programs.

The style of pseudocode we present consists purely of characters, so you can type pseudocode conveniently, using any text-editor program. A carefully prepared pseudocode program can easily be converted to a corresponding Java program.

Pseudocode normally describes only statements representing the *actions* that occur after you convert a program from pseudocode to Java and the program is run on a computer.

Such actions might include *input*, *output* or *calculations*. In our pseudocode, we typically do *not* include variable declarations, but some programmers choose to list variables and mention their purposes.