



Discussion Forum Unit 3

Programming 1 (University of the People)

Refer to our textbox “If a subroutine is a black box, then a parameter is something that provides a mechanism for passing information from the outside world into the box. Parameters are part of the interface of a subroutine. They allow you to customize the behavior of a subroutine to adapt it to a particular situation.”(David J. Eck, 2019).

Simply Parameters give the information to the subroutines and inform it how to act. Parameters are an important part of subroutines and collect information(value) for their execution. When we are calling the subroutine, the value will provide for the parameter in

the subroutine call statement.

Formal parameter is used to define the parameters used in the method, the purpose is to get the parameters passed when we are calling the method.

Actual parameter is used for the parameter passed to the method when it is called, that is, the value passed to the called method.

Formal parameter	Actual parameter
They are variables defined in the function signature.	They are values given to the function at the time of function call.
They receive value from the actual parameter.	They give values to a formal parameter.

Actual Parameters and Formal Parameters is that Actual Parameters are the values that are passed to the function when it is invoked while Formal Parameters are the variables defined by the function that receives values when the function is called.(Dpthegrey, 2020)

Examples:

Actual Parameters:

```
void main()  
{  
    int k = square(b);  
    print( k );  
}
```

Formal Parameters:

```
int square( int b )
```

```
{  
    return b*b;  
}
```

References:

Dpthegrey, (2020) Refer to :<https://medium.com/@dpthegrey/explain-difference-between-formal-and-actual-parameter-with-example-26f63e7560bb>

David J. Eck, (2019), Introduction to Programming Using Java, P. 152