# Chapter2: Meaningful names

Use intention-revealing names

Choosing good and revealing names for the variables and functions

Further, we can define simple (unnecessary) classes so that the code can be more readable

Avoid disinformation

Do not use standard abbreviations for other meanings

It is helpful if the names for similar things sort together alphabetically + obvious differences

Make meaningful distinctions

Naming a1,a2 … is a bad practice

Noise words redundancy is bad: never add “string” in the name of a string variable, same for tables or just, variables. Never put moneyAmount and money, or account and accountData so that the user does not get confused

Use pronounceable names

Use searchable names

Single-letter names are hard to locate via ctrl+F .They should only be used as local vars (for ex. Inside a smallfor loop)

Avoid encodings

Avoid mental mapping

Don’t be smart, be professional. Clarity is king

Class names

Choose Customer not customerData, AddressParser not AddressParserInfo (avoid info manager processor Data etc… in naming the class)

Method names

Methods should have verbs.. Get, set, is …etc : javabean standards

When constructors are overloaded use static factory methods

Don’t be cute

Don’t use slang or inside jokes to code

Pick one word per concept

Ex: choose either fetch, get or retrieve in all the code base for easy access/remembering

Don’t pun

Avoid using same word for different purposes. (should work equivalently)

Use solution domain names

Stick to conventional namings so that the customer can understand the code

Add meaningful context

For address, instead of using state use addrState

Don’t add gratuitous Context

Shorter names are better than longer ones as long as they are clear. Add no more context to name than is necessary Final words

Good names require good descriptive skills and a shared cultural background

Renaming things to the better is a good thing, don’t be afraid of it

# Chapter3: Functions

Small!

Functions should be always the smallest possible : 100 lines is too much

Blocks and indenting: blocks inside if statements should be one or two lines long not more Do one Do one thing

Functions should do one thing. They should do it well. They should do it only (one level of abstraction)

One level of abstraction per function

If you need another level, call a function

Switch statements

Sometimes we cannot avoid them, but make each switch statement buried in a low-level class and never repeated (polymorphism)

Use descriptive names

Don’t be afraid to make a name long, better than short enigmatic name or long descriptive comment

writeField(name) is better than write(name) cuz you tell that the name is a field

Spend time on changing names (sometimes helps restructuring the code)

Be consistent in the names, similar phraseology allows the sequence to tell a story

Function Arguments

Idealfunctions are niladic then monadic, then dyadic, then triadic. Polyadic are to be avoided. e.g least nb of arguments possible because they are hard conceptually, for testing (more testing combinations).

Flag arguments (Boolean) are bad, loudly proclaiming that the f° does 2 diff. things. Sol°: split to 2

Have no side effects

In a checkPassword() function you can have a call to initSession(), this is a side effect because the name of the function does not state that it initializes the session. You should add this stepto the name of the function even if it violates the rule of do one thing

Command query separation

if (set(”username”, ”unclebob”))… Here the reader does not understand the goal of the function. Should stickto the conventional human language. If the function does smth, it should be named with a verb, if it gives an information, it should be an adjective

Prefer exceptions to returning error codes

better to extract the bodies of the try and catch blocks out into functions of their own cuz try/catch blocks are heavy and ugly (the try method contains throw)

Don’t repeat yourself

Avoid code deduplication

Structured programming

Avoid break, continue and multiple returns

How do you write functions like this?

First draft is messy, then you restructure it until it follows the rules stated above

Conclusion

**Chapter 4 : Comments**

Comments are a failure because we could not express ourselves well through code: necessary evil

Comments do not make up for bad code

Better clean the code than doing a comment (if the goal is to make things clear)

Good comments

Legal comments, informative comments (for ex a return of an abstract method), explanation of intent, clarification (for ex. unclear standard library), warning of consequences, TODOs, amplification

Bad comments

Mumbling, redundant(takes more time to read than the code), Misleading(difference between this.closed IS true and when it BECOMES true), mandated comments, journal comments (comment for everything that has been changed, noise comments (for ex. a function getMonth and you comment it), aon’t use a comment when you can use a function or a variable, avoid position markers, closing brace comments, attributions and bylines, commented-out code(unless you give a reason why you’re putting it), HTML code, too much information, comments for small functions

**Chapter 5: Error Handling**

Use exceptions rather return codes

Write your try-catch-finally statement first

It helps define what the user of that code should expect

Use unchecked exceptions

Checked exception might break encapsulation because a high-level function needs to know details about low-level function (avoid use of unnecessary checked exceptions). But checked exceptions are very useful when used properly for recoverable conditions and runtime exceptions for programing errors (according to prof.)

Provide context with exceptions

Create informative error messages, mention the operation that failed and the type of failure.

Define exception classes in terms of a caller’s needs

Define the normal flow

Don’t return null

If you return null, you will need to check if a variable is null in many other places in the code. Instead, wrap that method with a method that either throws an exception or returns a special case object (None and Some instead for funprog)

Don’t pass null

You can throw an invalid argument exception, or better a assertion. But all programming languages do not have a good way to deal with null parameters

**Chapter 9: Unit tests**

The three laws of TDD

1. You may write production code until you have written a failing unit test
2. You may not write more of a unit test than sufficient to fail, not compiling is failing
3. You may not write more production code than is sufficient to pass the currently failing test

Keeping tests clean

Messy tests -> hard to change -> tests fail when changing production code -> cost of maintaining tests rise -> delete the tests -> more damages when changing production code -> fear of changing code -> inability to fix weaknesses and bugs or improve the functionality

Clean tests

Readability in tests is even more important than readability in production code

Domain-specific testing language

Rather than using APIs to test, we build up a set of functions and utilities that make use of those APIs and that make tests more convenient and readable

A dual standard

One assert per test

Also: Single concept per test

F.I.R.S.T

Clean tests follow these rules:

1. Fast (run fast)
2. Independent (if dependent, first that fails causes a cascade of downstream failures)
3. Repeatable in any environment (in the production, QA, without network
4. Self-validating (should have a Boolean output, false or true
5. Timely (unit tests just before production code

**Chapter 10: Classes**

Class organization

1. Public static constants, 2. private static variables, 3. private instance variables (seldom public variables)

Encapsulation: always private, sometimes protected for the tests. But always keep in mind that loosening the encapsulation is the last resort

Classes should be small

Yes, they should be smaller as possible as a primary rule. (length is measured by responsibilities). Description of a class should need only 25 words, shouldn’t use “if”, “and”, “or” or “but” because it is a hint that it has too many responsibilities

The single responsibility principle (SRP): Small classes compared to bigger classes are like drawers with many small, labeled boxes compared to few big boxes where you fill everything into it. Having less complexity in every class is always better

Cohesion: A class in which each variable is used by each method is maximally cohesive (not advisable to create such because the methods and vars would be co-dependent)

Maintaining cohesion results in many small classes: when classes lose cohesion, split them

Organizing for change

In a clean system, we organize our classes so as to reduce the risk of change.

We try to split the class into many to understand easily the specific logic of each one

Open-closed principle: Classes should be open for extension but closed for modification

Isolating from change