



Java Identifiers

In Java, identifiers are used for **identification purposes**. Java Identifiers can be a class name, method name, variable name, or label.

- All Java **variables** must be **identified** with **unique names**.
- These unique names are called **identifiers**.

Rules For Defining Java Identifiers

There are certain rules for defining a valid Java identifier.

- The only allowed characters for identifiers are all alphanumeric characters([**A-Z**],[**a-z**],[**0-9**]), '**\$**'(*dollar sign*) and '**_**'(*underscore*).
- Identifiers should **not** start with digits([**0-9**]).
- Java identifiers are **case-sensitive**.
- There is no limit on the length of the identifier but it is advisable to use an optimum length of 4 – 15 letters only.
- **Reserved Words** can't be used as an identifier.

Reserved Words in Java/ Keywords

Any programming language reserves some words to represent functionalities defined by that language. These words are called reserved words. They can be briefly categorized into two parts: **keywords**(50) and **literals**(3).

- Keywords define functionalities and literals define value.

abstract	continue	for	protected	transient
Assert	Default	Goto	public	Try
Boolean	Do	If	Static	throws
break	double	implements	strictfp	Package
byte	else	import	super	Private
case	enum	Interface	Short	switch

Catch	Extends	instanceof	return	void
Char	Final	Int	synchronized	volatile
class	finally	long	throw	Date
const	float	Native	This	while