

## 26.1 Comparable Interface: Sorting an ArrayList

Sorting the elements of an ArrayList into ascending or descending order is a common programming task. Java's **Collections** class provides static methods that operate on various types of lists such as an ArrayList. The `sort()` method sorts collections into ascending order provided that the elements within the collection implement the Comparable interface (i.e., the elements are also of the type Comparable). For example, each of the primitive wrapper classes (e.g., Integer, Double, etc.) implements the **Comparable** interface, which declares the `compareTo()` method. Classes implementing the Comparable interface must define a custom implementation of the `compareTo()` method. A programmer may use `sort()` to sort an ArrayList in which the elements implement the Comparable interface (e.g., Integer). The programmer must import `java.util.Collections` to use the `sort()` method. The following example demonstrates the use of `sort()` to sort an ArrayList of Integer objects.

Figure 26.1.1: Collections' `sort()` method operates on lists of Integer objects.

```
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Collections;

public class ArraySorter {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
        final int NUM_ELEMENTS = 5; // Number of items in array
        ArrayList<Integer> userInts = new ArrayList<Integer>(); // Array of user defined values
        int i; // Loop index

        // Prompt user for input, add values to array
        System.out.println("Enter " + NUM_ELEMENTS + " numbers...");
        for (i = 1; i <= NUM_ELEMENTS; ++i) {
            System.out.print(i + ": ");
            userInts.add(scnr.nextInt());
        }

        // Sort ArrayList of Comparable elements
        Collections.sort(userInts);

        // Print sorted array
        System.out.print("\nSorted numbers: ");
        for (i = 0; i < NUM_ELEMENTS; ++i) {
            System.out.print(userInts.get(i) + " ");
        }
        System.out.println("");
    }
}
```

```
Enter 5 numbers...
```

```
1: -10
```

```
2: 99
```

```
3: 31
```

```
4: 5
```

```
5: 31
```

```
Sorted numbers: -10 5 31 31 99
```

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The Collections' `sort()` method calls the `compareTo()` method on each object within the `ArrayList` to determine the order and produce a sorted list.

The `sort()` method can also be used to sort an `ArrayList` containing elements of a user-defined class type. The only requirement, however, is that the user-defined class must also implement the `Comparable` interface and override the `compareTo()` method, which should return a number that determines the ordering of the two objects being compared as shown below.

**`compareTo`**(`otherComparable`) compares a `Comparable` object to `otherComparable`, returning a number indicating if the `Comparable` object is less than, equal to, or greater than `otherComparable`. The method `compareTo()` will return 0 if the two `Comparable` objects are equal. Otherwise, `compareTo()` returns a negative number if the `Comparable` object is less than `otherComparable`, or a positive number if the `Comparable` object is greater than `otherComparable`.

The following program allows a user to add new employees to an `ArrayList` and print employee information in sorted order. The `EmployeeData` class implements **`Comparable<EmployeeData>`** and overrides the `compareTo()` method in order to enable the use of the Collections class's `sort()` method.

Figure 26.1.2: Sorting an `ArrayList` of employee records.

EmployeeData.java:

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```
public class EmployeeData implements Comparable<EmployeeData> {
    private String firstName; // First Name
    private String lastName; // Last Name
    private Integer emplID; // Employee ID
    private Integer deptNum; // Department Number

    EmployeeData(String firstName, String lastName, Integer emplID) {
        this.firstName = firstName;
        this.lastName = lastName;
        this.emplID = emplID;
        this.deptNum = deptNum;
    }

    @Override
    public int compareTo(EmployeeData otherEmpl) {
        String fullName; // Full name, this employee
        String otherFullName; // Full name, comparison employee
        int comparisonVal; // Outcome of comparison

        // Compare based on department number first
        comparisonVal = deptNum.compareTo(otherEmpl.deptNum);

        // If in same organization, use name
        if (comparisonVal == 0) {
            fullName = lastName + firstName;
            otherFullName = otherEmpl.lastName + otherEmpl.firstName;
            comparisonVal = fullName.compareTo(otherFullName);
        }

        return comparisonVal;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return lastName + " " + firstName +
            "\tID: " + emplID +
            "\t\tDept. #: " + deptNum;
    }
}
```

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EmployeeRecords.java:

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```

import java.util.Scanner;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Collections;

public class EmployeeRecords {

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
        ArrayList<EmployeeData> emplList = new ArrayList<EmployeeData>(); // Stores all
employee data
        EmployeeData emplData; // Stores info for
one employee
        String userCommand; // User defined
add/print/quit command
        String emplFirstName; // User defined
employee first name
        String emplLastName; // User defined
employee last name
        Integer emplID; // User defined
employee ID
        Integer deptNum; // User defined
employee Dept
        int i; // Loop counter

        do {
            // Prompt user for input
            System.out.println("Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all
employees, 'q' to quit): ");
            userCommand = scnr.next();

            // Add new employee entry
            if (userCommand.equals("a")) {
                System.out.print("First Name: ");
                emplFirstName = scnr.next();
                System.out.print("Last Name: ");
                emplLastName = scnr.next();
                System.out.print("ID: ");
                emplID = scnr.nextInt();
                System.out.print("Department Number: ");
                deptNum = scnr.nextInt();
                emplData = new EmployeeData(emplFirstName, emplLastName, emplID, deptNum);
                emplList.add(emplData);
            }
            // Print all entries
            else if (userCommand.equals("p")) {

                // Sort employees by department number first
                // and name second
                Collections.sort(emplList);

                System.out.println("");
                System.out.println("Employees: ");
                // Access employee records
                for (i = 0; i < emplList.size(); ++i) {
                    System.out.println(emplList.get(i).toString());
                }
                System.out.println("");
            }
        } while (!userCommand.equals("q"));
    }
}

```

```

Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
a
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Faraday
ID: 124
Department Number: 1
Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
a
First Name: Ada
Last Name: Lovelace
ID: 203
Department Number: 2
Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
a
First Name: James
Last Name: Maxwell
ID: 123
Department Number: 1
Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
a
First Name: Alan
Last Name: Turing
ID: 201
Department Number: 2
Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
p

Employees:
Faraday Michael          ID: 124          Dept. #: 1
Maxwell James            ID: 123          Dept. #: 1
Lovelace Ada              ID: 203          Dept. #: 2
Turing Alan               ID: 201          Dept. #: 2

Enter command ('a' to add new employee, 'p' to print all employees, 'q' to quit):
q

```

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Interface implementation is a concept similar to class inheritance. The **implements** keyword tells the compiler that a class implements, instead of extends, a particular interface (e.g., `Comparable<EmployeeData>`). Like with inheritance, an `Employee` object is of type `Comparable<EmployeeData>` as well as `EmployeeData`. However, an interface differs from a typical super class in that interfaces cannot be instantiated and the methods declared by an interface must be overridden and defined by the implementing class. In this example, the built-in `Comparable` interface declares the `compareTo()` method, which `EmployeeData` must override. Failing to override `compareTo()` results in the following compiler error: "EmployeeData is not abstract and does not override abstract method compareTo(EmployeeData) in java.lang.Comparable".

The `ArrayList` of `EmployeeData` elements is sorted via the `sort()` method, as in `Collections.sort(emplList);`. The `sort()` method invokes each element's `compareTo()` method in

order to determine the ordering and sort the ArrayList. EmployeeData's compareTo() method performs a comparison between two EmployeeData objects, prioritizing department number over an employee's name. Thus, an employee hired within a numerically smaller department number will precede another employee with a numerically larger department number, and vice versa. If two employees are located in the same department, they are compared lexicographically based on their names. The end result is that employees are sorted according to department number, and employees in the same department are sorted in alphabetical order according to their names.

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## zyDE 26.1.1: Sort Employee elements using employee IDs.

Modify EmployeeData's compareTo() method so that elements are sorted based on the employees' department number (deptNum) and ID (emplID). Specifically, employee's should first be sorted in ascending order according to department number first, and those employees within the same department should be sorted in ascending order according to the emplID.

Current  
file:

**EmployeeData.java** ▼[Load default template](#)

```
1
2 public class EmployeeData implements Comparable<EmployeeData> {
3     private String firstName; // First Name
4     private String lastName; // Last Name
5     private Integer emplID; // Employee ID
6     private Integer deptNum; // Department Number
7
8     EmployeeData(String firstName, String lastName, Integer emplID, Integer deptNum) {
9         this.firstName = firstName;
10        this.lastName = lastName;
11        this.emplID = emplID;
12        this.deptNum = deptNum;
13    }
14
15    @Override
16    public int compareTo(EmployeeData otherEmpl) {
17        String fullName; // Full name, this employee
18        String otherFullName; // Full name, comparison employee
19        int comparisonVal; // Outcome of comparison
20
21        // Compare based on department number first
```

a Michael Faraday 124 1

a Ada Lovelace 203 2

a James Maxwell 123 1

**Run**

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Classes that already inherit from a base class can also be defined to implement an interface. For example, the above `EmployeeData` class could have been defined so that it extends a `Person` class and implements the `Comparable` interface, as in

```
public class EmployeeData extends Person implements Comparable<EmployeeData> { ..
```

Finally, note that `Comparable`'s `compareTo()` method is meant to work with any class. Thus, a programmer must append the class name in angle brackets to "`Comparable`", as in

`Comparable<EmployeeData>`, in order to tell the compiler that the `compareTo()` method requires an argument of the indicated class type. Generic methods, classes, and interfaces are discussed in more detail elsewhere.

**PARTICIPATION  
ACTIVITY**

26.1.1: Sorting elements in an ArrayList.

- 1) The following statement sorts an ArrayList called `prevEmployees`. Assume `prevEmployees` is an appropriately initialized ArrayList of `EmployeeData` elements.  
`sort(prevEmployees);`
  - ☐ True
  - ☐ False
- 2) An interface contains method declarations, as opposed to method definitions.
  - ☐ True
  - ☐ False
- 3) An interface cannot be instantiated.
  - ☐ True
  - ☐ False
- 4) The `EmployeeData` class, as defined above, is not required to override the `compareTo()` method declared by the `Comparable` interface.
  - ☐ True
  - ☐ False
- 5) A class may not simultaneously "extend" a class and "implement" an interface.

- ☒ True
- ☐ False

**CHALLENGE  
ACTIVITY**

26.1.1: Enter the output for sorting an ArrayList.



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- [Introduction to object ordering](#) from Oracle's Java tutorials
- [Oracle's Java Comparable class specification](#)

## 26.2 Generic methods

Multiple methods may be nearly identical, differing only in their data types, as below.

Figure 26.2.1: Methods may have identical behavior, differing only in data types.

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```
// Find the minimum of three **ints**
public static Integer tripleMinInt(Integer item1, Integer item2, Integer item3) {
    Integer minVal;

    minVal = item1;

    if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
        minVal = item2;
    }
    if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
        minVal = item3;
    }
    return minVal;
}
```

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```
// Find the minimum of three **chars**
public static Character tripleMinChar(Character item1, Character item2, Character item3) {
    Character minVal;

    minVal = item1;

    if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
        minVal = item2;
    }
    if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
        minVal = item3;
    }
    return minVal;
}
```

Writing and maintaining redundant methods that only differ by data type can be time-consuming and error-prone. The language supports a better approach.

A **generic method** is a method definition having a special type parameter that may be used in place of types in the method.

Figure 26.2.2: A generic method enables a method to handle various class types.

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```

public class ItemMinimum {
    public static <TheType extends Comparable<TheType>>
    TheType tripleMin(TheType item1, TheType item2, TheType item3) {
        TheType minVal = item1; // Holds min item value, init to first item

        if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item2;
        }
        if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item3;
        }
        return minVal;
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Integer num1 = 55;    // Test case 1, item1
        Integer num2 = 99;    // Test case 1, item2
        Integer num3 = 66;    // Test case 1, item3

        Character let1 = 'a'; // Test case 2, item1
        Character let2 = 'z'; // Test case 2, item2
        Character let3 = 'm'; // Test case 2, item3

        String str1 = "zzz"; // Test case 3, item1
        String str2 = "aaa"; // Test case 3, item2
        String str3 = "mmm"; // Test case 3, item3

        // Try tripleMin method with Integers
        System.out.println("Items: " + num1 + " " + num2 + " " + num3);
        System.out.println("Min: " + tripleMin(num1, num2, num3) + "\n");

        // Try tripleMin method with Characters
        System.out.println("Items: " + let1 + " " + let2 + " " + let3);
        System.out.println("Min: " + tripleMin(let1, let2, let3) + "\n");

        // Try tripleMin method with Strings
        System.out.println("Items: " + str1 + " " + str2 + " " + str3);
        System.out.println("Min: " + tripleMin(str1, str2, str3) + "\n");
    }
}

```

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```

run:
Items: 55 99 66
Min: 55

Items: a z m
Min: a

Items: zzz aaa mmm
Min: aaa

```

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The method return type is preceded by `<TheType extends Comparable<TheType>>` (highlighted yellow), where `TheType` can be any identifier. That type is known as a **type parameter** and can be used throughout the method for any parameter types, return types, or local variable types (highlighted orange). The identifier is known as a template parameter, and may be various reference types or even another template parameter.

A type parameter may be associated with a **type bound** to specify the class types for which a type parameter is valid. Type bounds are specified using the `extends` keyword and appear after the corresponding type parameter. For example, the code `<TheType extends Comparable<TheType>>` specifies that `TheType` is bounded by the type bound `Comparable<TheType>`. Thus, `TheType` may only represent types that implement the `Comparable` interface. If the type bound is a class type (e.g., the `Number` class), the type parameter may only represent types that are of the type specified by the type bound or any derived classes.

Type bounds are also necessary to enable access to the class members of the class specified by the type bound (e.g., `compareTo()`) via a variable of a generic type (e.g., `item1`, `item2`, `item3`, and `min`). By bounding `TheType` to the `Comparable` interface, the programmer is able to invoke the `Comparable` interface's `compareTo()` method with the generic types, as in `item2.compareTo(min)`. Attempting to invoke a class member via a generic type without specifying the appropriate type bound results in a compiler error.

Importantly, type arguments cannot be primitive types such as `int`, `char`, and `double`. Instead, the type arguments must be reference types. If primitive types are desired, a programmer should use the corresponding primitive wrapper classes (e.g., `Integer`, `Character`, `Double`, etc.), discussed elsewhere.

**PARTICIPATION  
ACTIVITY**

## 26.2.1: Generic methods.

1) Fill in the blank.

```
public static <MyType extends  
Comparable<MyType>>  
    _____ GetMax3 (MyType i, MyType j,  
    MyType k) {  
    ...  
};
```

- ☐ TheType
- ☐ Integer
- ☐ MyType

2) Fill in the blank.

```
public static <_____ extends  
Comparable<_____>>  
T TripleMedian(T item1, T item2, T  
item3) {  
    ...  
}
```

- ☐ Integer
- ☐ TheType
- ☐ T
- ☐ Not possible; T is not a valid type.

3) For the earlier TripleMin generic

method, what happens if a call is `TripleMin(i, j, k)` but those arguments are of type `Character`?

- ☐ The compiler generates an error message because only `Integer` and `Double` are supported.
- ☐ During runtime, the `Character` values are forced to be `Integer` values.
- ☐ The compiler creates a method with `Character` types and calls that method.

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4) For the earlier `TripleMin` generic method, what happens if a call is `TripleMin(i, j, k)` but those arguments are `String` objects?

- ☐ The method will compare the `Strings`.
- ☐ The compiler generates an error, because only numerical types can be passed.

5) For the earlier `TripleMin` generic method, what happens if a call is `TripleMin(i, j, z)`, where `i` and `j` are `Integers`, but `z` is a `String`?

- ☐ The method will compare the `Integer` and `String` objects.
- ☐ The compiler will generate an error, because `TheType` must be the same for all three arguments.

Programmers optionally may explicitly specify the generic type as a special argument, as in `ItemMinimum.<Integer>tripleMin(num1, num2, num3);`.

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A generic method may have multiple parameters:

Construct 26.2.1: Method definition with multiple generics.

```
modifiers <Type1 extends BoundType1, Type2 extends BoundType2>
ReturnType methodName(parameters) {
    ...
}
```

Note that the modifiers represent a space delimited list of valid modifiers like **public** and **static**.

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## zyDE 26.2.1: Generic methods.

This program currently fails to compile because the parameters cannot be automatically converted to Double in the statement `tripleSum = item1 + item2 + item3;`. Because `TheType` is bound to the class `Number`, the `Number` class' `doubleValue()` method can be used to get the value of the parameters as a double value. Modify `tripleAvg()` method to use the `doubleValue()` method to convert each of the parameters to a double value before adding them.

Load default template...

Run

```
1
2 public class ItemMinimum {
3
4     public static <TheType extends Number>
5     Double tripleAvg(TheType item1, TheType
6         Double tripleSum;
7
8         tripleSum = item1 + item2 + item3;
9
10        return tripleSum / 3.0;
11    }
12
13    public static void main(String[] args) {
14        Integer intVal1 = 55;
15        Integer intVal2 = 99;
16        Integer intVal3 = 66;
17
18        Double doubleVal1 = 14.5;
19        Double doubleVal2 = 12.3;
20        Double doubleVal3 = 17.5;
21    }
```

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

## 26.2.1: Generic methods.

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## 26.3 Class generics

Multiple classes may be nearly identical, differing only in their data types. The following shows a class managing three Integer numbers, and a nearly identical class managing three Short numbers.

Figure 26.3.1: Classes may be nearly identical, differing only in data type.

```
public class TripleInt {  
    private Integer item1; // Data value 1  
    private Integer item2; // Data value 2  
    private Integer item3; // Data value 3  
  
    public TripleInt(Integer i1, Integer i2, Integer i3) {  
        item1 = i1;  
        item2 = i2;  
        item3 = i3;  
    }  
  
    // Print all data member values  
    public void printAll() {  
        System.out.println("(" + item1 + "," + item2 + "," + item3 + ")");  
    }  
  
    // Return min data member value  
    public Integer minItem() {  
        Integer minVal; // Holds min item value, init to first item  
  
        minVal = item1;  
  
        if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {  
            minVal = item2;  
        }  
        if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {  
            minVal = item3;  
        }  
        return minVal;  
    }  
}
```

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```
public class TripleShort {
    private Short item1; // Data value 1
    private Short item2; // Data value 2
    private Short item3; // Data value 3

    public TripleShort(Short i1, Short i2, Short i3) {
        item1 = i1;
        item2 = i2;
        item3 = i3;
    }

    // Print all data member values
    public void printAll() {
        System.out.println("(" + item1 + "," + item2 + "," + item3 + ")");
    }

    // Return min data member value
    public Short minItem() {
        Short minVal; // Holds min item value, init to first item

        minVal = item1;

        if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item2;
        }
        if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item3;
        }
        return minVal;
    }
}
```

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Writing and maintaining redundant classes that only differ by data type can be time-consuming and error-prone. The language supports a better approach.

A **generic class** is a class definition having a special type parameter that may be used in place of types in the class. A variable declared of that **generic** class type must indicate a specific type.

Figure 26.3.2: A generic class enables one class to handle various data types.

TripleItem.java:

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```

public class TripleItem <TheType extends Comparable<TheType>> {
    private TheType item1; // Data value 1
    private TheType item2; // Data value 2
    private TheType item3; // Data value 3

    public TripleItem(TheType i1, TheType i2, TheType i3) {
        item1 = i1;
        item2 = i2;
        item3 = i3;
    }

    // Print all data member values
    public void printAll() {
        System.out.println("(" + item1 + "," + item2 + "," + item3 + ")");
    }

    // Return min data member value
    public TheType minItem() {
        TheType minVal; // Holds min item value, init to first item

        minVal = item1;

        if (item2.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item2;
        }
        if (item3.compareTo(minVal) < 0) {
            minVal = item3;
        }
        return minVal;
    }
}

```

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TripleItemManager.java:

```

public class TripleItemManager {
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        // TripleItem class with Integers
        TripleItem<Integer> triInts = new TripleItem<Integer>(9999, 5555, 6666);

        // TripleItem class with Shorts
        TripleItem<Short> triShorts = new TripleItem<Short>((short)99, (short)55, (short)66);

        // Try methods from TripleItem
        triInts.printAll();
        System.out.println("Min: " + triInts.minItem() + "\n");

        triShorts.printAll();
        System.out.println("Min: " + triShorts.minItem());
    }
}

```

```

(9999,5555,6666)
Min: 5555

(99,55,66)
Min: 55

```

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The class name is succeeded by `<TheType ... >` (highlighted yellow), where `TheType` can be any identifier. That type is known as a **type parameter** and can be used throughout the class, such as for parameter types, method return types, or field types. An object of this class can be instantiated by appending after the class name a specific type in angle brackets (highlighted orange), such as

```
TripleItem<Short> triShorts = new TripleItem<Short>((short)99, (short)55, (short)55);
```

Each type parameter can be associated with type bounds to specify the data types a programmer is allowed to use for the type arguments. As with generic methods, type bounds (discussed elsewhere) also allow a programmer to utilize the class members specified by the bounding type with variables of a generic type (e.g., `item1`, `item2`, `item3`, and `min`). Thus, above, `TripleItem` is a generic class whose instances expect type arguments that implement the `Comparable<TheType>` interface. By bounding the generic class's type parameter to the `Comparable` interface, a programmer can invoke the `Comparable` interface's `compareTo()` method with the generic types, as in `item2.compareTo(min)`.

#### PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

#### 26.3.1: Generic classes.

1) A class has been defined using the type `GenType` throughout, where `GenType` is intended to be chosen by the programmer when declaring and initializing a variable of this class. The code that should immediately follow the class's name in the class definition is `<GenType>`

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

2) A key advantage of generic classes is relieving the programmer from having to write redundant code that differs only by type.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

3) For a generic class with type parameters defined as `public class Vehicle<T> { ... }`, an appropriate instantiation of that class would be `Vehicle<T> v1 = new Vehicle<T>();`



- ☒ True
- ☐ False

A generic class may have multiple type parameters, separated by commas. Additionally, each type parameter may have type bounds.

### Construct 26.3.1: Generic class template with multiple parameters.

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```
public class ClassName <Type1 extends BoundType1, Type2 extends BoundType2> {
    ...
}
```

Importantly, type arguments cannot be primitive types such as `int`, `char`, and `double`. Instead, the type arguments must be reference types. If primitive types are desired, a programmer should use the corresponding primitive wrapper classes (e.g., `Integer`, `Char`, `Double`, etc.), discussed elsewhere.

Note that Java's `ArrayList` class is a generic class, which is why a variable declared as an `ArrayList` indicates the type in angle brackets, as in

```
ArrayList<Integer> nums = new ArrayList<Integer>();
```

### zyDE 26.3.1: Class generics.

The following program using a generic class `ItemCount` to count the number of times the same word is read from the user input. Modify the program to:

- Complete the `incrementIfDuplicate()` method and update the `main()` method with the `DuplicateCounter` class to use the `incrementIfDuplicate()` method.
- Modify the program to count the number of times a specific integer value is read from the user input. Be sure to use the `Integer` class.

Current  
file:

**DuplicateCounter.java** ▾

Load default template

```
1
2 import java.util.Scanner;
3
4 public class DuplicateCounter {
5     public static void main(String[] args) {
6         Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
7         ItemCount<String> wordCounter = new ItemCount<String>();
8         String inputWord;
9
10        wordCounter.setItem("that");
11
12        System.out.println("Enter words (END at end):");
13
14        // Read first word
```

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```
15 inputWord = scnr.next();
16
17 // Keep reading until word read equals <end>
18 while( !inputWord.equals("END") ) {
19     if (wordCounter.getItem().compareTo(inputWord) == 0) {
20         wordCounter.incrementCount();
21     }
```

that that is is not that that is not  
END

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Run

#### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

26.3.1: Enter the output of class generics.



This activity failed to load. Please try refreshing the page. If that fails, you might also try clearing your browser's cache.

If an issue persists,

[send feedback to zyBooks support](#)

Exploring further:

- [Introduction to generics](#) from Oracle's Java tutorials

## 26.4 Java example: Map values using a generic method

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zyDE 26.4.1: Map a value using a generic method.

The program below uses a generic method to map numeric, string, or character values to a shorter list of values. The program demonstrates a mapping for integers using a table of

100  
200  
300  
400  
500  
600

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The program gets an integer value from a user and returns the first value in the table that is greater than or equal to the user value, or the user value itself if that value is greater than the largest value in the table. Ex:

165 returns 200  
444 returns 500  
888 returns 888

1. Run the program and notice the input value 137 is mapped to 200. Try changing the input value and running again.
2. Modify the program to call the getMapping method for a double and a string, similar to the integer.
3. Run the program again and enter an integer, a double, and a string

[Load default template](#)

```

1 import java.util.Scanner;
2
3 public class GenericMappingArrays {
4     public static <MapType extends Comparable<MapType>>
5         MapType getMapping(MapType mapMe, MapType [] mappings) {
6         MapType result;
7         int i;
8         int len;
9         boolean keepLooking;
10
11         result = mapMe;
12         len = mappings.length;
13         keepLooking = true;
14
15         System.out.println();
16         System.out.print("Mapping range: ");
17         for (i = 0; i < len; ++i) {
18             System.out.print(mappings[i] + " ");
19         }
20         System.out.println();
21     }

```

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137

**Run**

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## zyDE 26.4.2: Map a value using a generic method (solution).

A solution to the above problem follows.

**Load default templ**

```
1 import java.util.Scanner;
2
3 public class GenericMappingArraysSolution {
4     public static <MapType extends Comparable<MapType>>
5         MapType getMapping(MapType mapMe, MapType[] mappings) {
6         MapType result;
7         int i;
8         int len;
9         boolean keepLooking;
10
11         result = mapMe;
12         len = mappings.length;
13         keepLooking = true;
14
15         System.out.println();
16         System.out.print("Mapping range: ");
17         for (i = 0; i < len; ++i) {
18             System.out.print(mappings[i] + " ");
19         }
20         System.out.println();
21 }
```

137  
4.44444  
Hi

**Run**

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## 26.5 LAB: What order? (generic methods)

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## 26.6 LAB: Zip code and population (generic types)

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Define a class **StatePair** with two generic types (**Type1** and **Type2**), a constructor, mutators, accessors, and a `printInfo()` method. Three `ArrayList`s have been pre-filled with `StatePair` data in `main()`:

- `ArrayList<StatePair<Integer, String>> zipCodeState`: Contains ZIP code/state abbreviation pairs
- `ArrayList<StatePair<String, String>> abbrevState`: Contains state abbreviation/state name pairs
- `ArrayList<StatePair<String, Integer>> statePopulation`: Contains state name/population pairs

Complete `main()` to use an input ZIP code to retrieve the correct state abbreviation from the `ArrayList` `zipCodeState`. Then use the state abbreviation to retrieve the state name from the `ArrayList` `abbrevState`. Lastly, use the state name to retrieve the correct state name/population pair from the `ArrayList` `statePopulation` and output the pair.

Ex: If the input is:

the output is:

**LAB  
ACTIVITY**

26.6.1: LAB: Zip code and population (generic types)

0 / 10

Current  
file:**StatePopulations.java** ▼

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1 Loading latest submission...

**Develop mode****Submit mode**

Run your program as often as you'd like, before submitting for grading. Below, type any needed input values in the first box, then click **Run program** and observe the program's output in the second box.

Enter program input (optional)

21044

**Run program**

Input (from above)

**StatePopulations.java**  
(Your program)

Program output displayed here

Signature of your work [What is this?](#)

Retrieving signature