Identifiers

A name in a java program is called identifier, which can be used for identification purpose.

It can be a class name, method name, variable name or label name.

In below program how many identifiers are there?

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int num = 0;  }  } |

In above program there are 5 identifiers are there, **Test, main, String, args, num**

Rules for java identifiers

1. Allowed characters.
   1. A to Z
   2. a to z
   3. 0 to 9
   4. $ (Dollar)
   5. \_ (underscore)

If we use any other character other than above, then we will get compile time error.

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int num\_one = 123;  int num#one = 456; //CE : illegal character: '#'  }  } |

1. Can’t start with digit

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int total\_123 = 123;  int 123total = 456; // CE: not a statement  }  } |

1. Case sensitive

Java language itself is a case sensitive programming language, we can differentiate with respect to case.

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| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int Sum;  int sum;  int SUM;  }  } |

1. No length limits

There is no length limit for java identifiers, but it is not recommended to create too lengthy identifiers

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int qwertyuiopasdfghjklzxcvbnm1234567890 = 1; //not recommended  int i =1  }  } |

1. Can’t use reserved words

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int total = 1;  int if = 2; //CE : not a statement  }  } |

1. We can use predefined java class names and interface names, but it is not a good programming practice hence not recommended

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| --- |
| public class Test {  public static void main(String args[]){  int String = 1; // not recommended  int Runnable =2; // not recommended  System.out.println(String);  System.out.println(Runnable);  }  } |

Which of the following are valid java identifiers?

1. total\_number
2. total#
3. 123total
4. ca$h
5. \_$\_$\_$\_$\_$\_$
6. all@hands
7. Java2Share
8. Integer
9. Int
10. int