

What is Object-Oriented Programming? What are the benefits of OOP?

Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) is a way of writing code by grouping related data and actions together into **objects**. These objects are created from **classes**, which serve as blueprints. Each object contains information called **attributes** and functions called **methods** that act on that data.

Benefits of OOP:

- **Modularity:** Code is divided into small, manageable parts (objects), making it easier to understand and maintain.
- **Reusability:** You can reuse existing classes in other programs or create new classes based on them (inheritance).
- **Scalability:** OOP makes it easier to add new features by creating or changing objects without affecting the whole program.
- **Encapsulation:** Objects protect their data from outside interference, helping to keep it safe and secure.
- **Abstraction:** It hides complex implementation details, allowing users to work with simple interfaces.

What are objects and classes in Python? Give a real-world example.

In Python, a **class** is like a blueprint that defines what attributes (data) and methods (functions) an object will have. An **object** is a specific instance of that class with real values.

Example:

Imagine a class called **Car**. It defines attributes like `color`, `brand`, and `max_speed`, and methods like `accelerate()` and `brake()`. When you create an object like `my_car = Car("Red", "Toyota", 180)`, this object represents a specific red Toyota car that can go up to 180 km/h. You can create many different car objects from the `Car` class, each with its own unique details.

Inheritance

Inheritance is a way to create a new class (called a **child** or **subclass**) that takes attributes and methods from an existing class (called a **parent** or **superclass**). It helps reuse code and create logical relationships between classes.

For example, if you have a base class called **Recipe**, you can create a subclass called **BakingRecipe** that inherits everything from **Recipe** but adds new features specific to baking, like an `oven_temperature` attribute. This means **BakingRecipe** can use the methods from **Recipe** but also have its own special properties.

Polymorphism

Polymorphism means “many forms” and lets different classes be used through the same interface. It allows a method to work differently depending on which class’s object calls it.

For instance, you might have two subclasses of **Recipe**: **CakeRecipe** and **DrinkRecipe**, both with a method called `prepare()`. When you call `prepare()` on a **CakeRecipe** or a **DrinkRecipe** object, Python knows which version of the method to use based on the object’s class. This lets you write flexible and easy-to-extend code.

Operator Overloading

Operator overloading lets you change how standard Python operators like `+`, `-`, or `==` work with objects of your class. You do this by defining special methods such as `__add__` for `+`, `__eq__` for `==`, or `__str__` for printing.

For example, in a **Recipe** class, you could overload the `+` operator to combine ingredients from two recipes. When you do `recipe1 + recipe2`, Python will call the `__add__` method you defined and return a new recipe that includes ingredients from both.