**Building a list from Arrays.asList and Anonymous Arrays**

The Arrays class has a helper method to turn a varargs collection into a List:  Arrays.asList(T... elements);

So, an easy way to create a list of MyDate objects would be:

List<MyDate> dates = Arrays.asList(new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980));

Since a method that declares a vararg parameter may also accept an array argument, the following is also legal:

MyDate[] datesArray = { new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980) };

List<MyDate> dates = Arrays.asList(datesArray));

As we learned in the Arrays chapter, it's illegal to use the inline array initialization syntax if it's not part of the same statement as the variable declaration.  So the following would be illegal:

// ILLEGAL

List<MyDate> dates = Arrays.asList(

{ new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980) } );

However, there is a similar syntax, known as an anonymous array, which does work... (note the new MyDate[] in front of the initialization syntax)

List<MyDate> dates = Arrays.asList(

new MyDate[]{ new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980) } ); // LEGAL

Also as a note for the exam, remember that asList is a method in the Arrays class.  It's not found in the Collections class, nor is it found as a method in the list itself... so the following methods are illegal:

// ILLEGAL

List<MyDate> dates = Collections.asList(

new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980));

// LEGAL

List<MyDate> dates2 = new ArrayList<>();

// ILLEGAL

dates2 = dates2.asList(

new MyDate(2,1,2020), new MyDate(3,10,1980));