



Menu ▼

Log in



HTML

CSS



Java Identifiers

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

Identifiers

All Java **variables** must be **identified** with **unique names**.

These unique names are called **identifiers**.

Identifiers can be short names (like x and y) or more descriptive names (age, sum, totalVolume).

Note: It is recommended to use descriptive names in order to create understandable and maintainable code:

Example

```
// Good
int minutesPerHour = 60;

// OK, but not so easy to understand what m actually is
int m = 60;
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

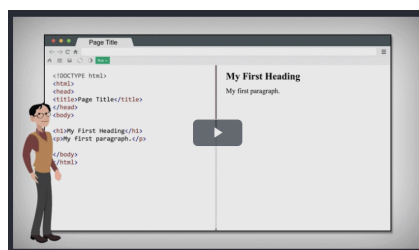
The general rules for naming variables are:

- Names can contain letters, digits, underscores, and dollar signs
- Names must begin with a letter
- Names should start with a lowercase letter and it cannot contain whitespace
- Names can also begin with \$ and _ (but we will not use it in this tutorial)
- Names are case sensitive ("myVar" and "myvar" are different variables)
- Reserved words (like Java keywords, such as **int** or **boolean**) cannot be used as names

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

NEW

We just launched
W3Schools videos



[Explore now](#)

COLOR PICKER





Get certified
by completing
a Java
course today!



Get started

CODE GAME



Play Game



[Report Error](#)

[Spaces](#)

[Pro](#)

[Buy Certificate](#)

Top Tutorials

- [HTML Tutorial](#)
- [CSS Tutorial](#)
- [JavaScript Tutorial](#)
- [How To Tutorial](#)
- [SQL Tutorial](#)
- [Python Tutorial](#)
- [W3.CSS Tutorial](#)
- [Bootstrap Tutorial](#)
- [PHP Tutorial](#)
- [Java Tutorial](#)
- [C++ Tutorial](#)
- [jQuery Tutorial](#)

Top References

- [HTML Reference](#)
- [CSS Reference](#)
- [JavaScript Reference](#)
- [SQL Reference](#)
- [Python Reference](#)
- [W3.CSS Reference](#)
- [Bootstrap Reference](#)
- [PHP Reference](#)
- [HTML Colors](#)
- [Java Reference](#)
- [Angular Reference](#)
- [jQuery Reference](#)

Top Examples

- [HTML Examples](#)
- [CSS Examples](#)
- [JavaScript Examples](#)
- [How To Examples](#)
- [SQL Examples](#)
- [Python Examples](#)
- [W3.CSS Examples](#)
- [Bootstrap Examples](#)
- [PHP Examples](#)
- [Java Examples](#)

[XML Examples](#)[jQuery Examples](#)

Get Certified

[HTML Certificate](#)[CSS Certificate](#)[JavaScript Certificate](#)[Front End Certificate](#)[SQL Certificate](#)[Python Certificate](#)[PHP Certificate](#)[jQuery Certificate](#)[Java Certificate](#)[C++ Certificate](#)[C# Certificate](#)[XML Certificate](#)

[FORUM](#) | [ABOUT](#)

W3Schools is optimized for learning and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and learning. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot warrant full correctness of all content. While using W3Schools, you agree to have read and accepted our terms of use, cookie and privacy policy.

Copyright 1999-2022 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.

W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS.

