# **Chapter 3**

### **Program Control Statements**



## **Key Skills & Concepts**

- Input characters from the keyboard
- Know the complete form of the if statement
- Use the **switch** statement
- Know the complete form of the for loop
- Use the while loop
- Use the do-while loop

- Use break to exit a loop
- Use break as a form of goto
- Apply continue
- Nest loops

In this chapter, you will learn about the statements that control a program's flow of execution. There are three categories of program control statements: *selection* statements, which include the **if** and the **switch**; *iteration* statements, which include the **for**, **while**, and **do-while** loops; and *jump* statements, which include **break**, **continue**, and **return**. Except for **return**, which is discussed later in this book, the remaining control statements, including the **if** and **for** statements to which you have already had a brief introduction, are examined in detail here. The chapter begins by explaining how to perform some simple keyboard input.

### **Input Characters from the Keyboard**

Before examining Java's control statements, we will make a short digression that will allow you to begin writing interactive programs. Up to this point, the sample programs in this book have displayed information *to* the user, but they have not received information *from* the user. Thus, you have been using console output, but not console (keyboard) input. The main reason for this is that Java's input capabilities rely on or make use of features not discussed until later in this book. Also, most real-world Java applications will be graphical and window based, not console based. For these reasons, not much use of console input is found in this book. However, there is one type of console input that is relatively easy to use: reading a character from the keyboard. Since several of the examples in this chapter will make use of this feature, it is discussed here.

To read a character from the keyboard, we will use **System.in.read()**. **System.in** is the complement to **System.out**. It is the input object attached to the keyboard. The **read()** method waits until the user presses a key and then returns the result. The character is returned as an integer, so it must be cast into a **char** to assign it to a **char** variable. By default, console input is *line buffered*. Here, the term *buffer* refers to a small portion of memory that is used to hold the characters before they are read by your program. In this case, the buffer holds a complete line of text. As a result, you must press ENTER before any character that you type will be sent to your program. Here is a program that reads a character from the keyboard:

```
// Read a character from the keyboard.
class KbIn {
 public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch;
    System.out.print("Press a key followed by ENTER: ");
    ch = (char) System.in.read(); // get a char ◄
                                                            Read a character
                                                            from the keyboard.
    System.out.println("Your key is: " + ch);
  Here is a sample run:
Press a key followed by ENTER: t
Your key is: t
  In the program, notice that main() begins like this:
public static void main(String[] args)
  throws java.io.IOException {
```

Because **System.in.read()** is being used, the program must specify the **throws java.io.IOException** clause. This line is necessary to handle input errors. It is part of Java's exception handling mechanism, which is discussed in Chapter 9. For now, don't worry about its precise meaning.

The fact that **System.in** is line buffered is a source of annoyance at times. When you press ENTER, a carriage return, line feed sequence is entered into the input stream. Furthermore, these characters are left pending in the input buffer until you read them. Thus, for some applications, you may need to remove them (by reading them) before the next input operation. You will see an example of this later in this chapter.

#### The if Statement

Chapter 1 introduced the **if** statement. It is examined in detail here. The complete form of the **if** statement is

```
if(condition) statement;
else statement;
```

where the targets of the **if** and **else** are single statements. The **else** clause is optional. The targets of both the **if** and **else** can be blocks of statements. The general form of the **if**, using

```
blocks of statements, is
if(condition)
{
    statement sequence
}
else
{
    statement sequence
}
```

If the conditional expression is true, the target of the **if** will be executed; otherwise, if it exists, the target of the **else** will be executed. At no time will both of them be executed. The conditional expression controlling the **if** must produce a **boolean** result.

To demonstrate the **if** (and several other control statements), we will create and develop a simple computerized guessing game that would be suitable for young children. In the first version of the game, the program asks the player for a letter between A and Z. If the player presses the correct letter on the keyboard, the program responds by printing the message **\*\* Right \*\***. The program is shown here:

```
// Guess the letter game.
class Guess {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch, answer = 'K';
    System.out.println("I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.");
    System.out.print("Can you guess it: ");
    ch = (char) System.in.read(); // read a char from the keyboard
    if(ch == answer) System.out.println("** Right **");
  }
}
```

This program prompts the player and then reads a character from the keyboard. Using an **if** statement, it then checks that character against the answer, which is K in this case. If K was entered, the message is displayed. When you try this program, remember that the K must be entered in uppercase.

Taking the guessing game further, the next version uses the **else** to print a message when the wrong letter is picked.

```
// Guess the letter game, 2nd version.
class Guess2 {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch, answer = 'K';

    System.out.println("I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.");
    System.out.print("Can you guess it: ");

    ch = (char) System.in.read(); // get a char

    if(ch == answer) System.out.println("** Right **");
    else System.out.println("...Sorry, you're wrong.");
  }
}
```

#### **Nested** ifs

A *nested if* is an *if* statement that is the target of another *if* or *else*. Nested *if*s are very common in programming. The main thing to remember about nested *if*s in Java is that an *else* statement always refers to the nearest *if* statement that is within the same block as the *else* and not already associated with an *else*. Here is an example:

```
if(i == 10) {
  if(j < 20) a = b;
  if(k > 100) c = d;
  else a = c; // this else refers to if(k > 100)
}
else a = d; // this else refers to if(i == 10)
```

As the comments indicate, the final **else** is not associated with **if**(j < 20), because it is not in the same block (even though it is the nearest **if** without an **else**). Rather, the final **else** is associated with **if**(i == 10). The inner **else** refers to **if**(k > 100), because it is the closest **if** within the same block.

You can use a nested **if** to add a further improvement to the guessing game. This addition provides the player with feedback about a wrong guess.

```
// Guess the letter game, 3rd version.
class Guess3 {
 public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch, answer = 'K';
    System.out.println("I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.");
    System.out.print("Can you guess it: ");
    ch = (char) System.in.read(); // get a char
    if(ch == answer) System.out.println("** Right **");
    else {
      System.out.print("...Sorry, you're ");
This is a nested if.
         // a nested if
       → if (ch < answer) System.out.println("too low");</p>
         else System.out.println("too high");
     }
```

A sample run is shown here:

```
I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.
Can you guess it: Z
...Sorry, you're too high
```

#### The if-else-if Ladder

A common programming construct that is based upon the nested **if** is the **if-else-if** *ladder*. It looks like this:

```
if(condition)
    statement;
else if(condition)
    statement;
else if(condition)
    statement;
.
.
.
else
statement;
```

The conditional expressions are evaluated from the top downward. As soon as a true condition is found, the statement associated with it is executed, and the rest of the ladder is bypassed. If none of the conditions are true, the final **else** statement will be executed. The final **else** often acts as a default condition; that is, if all other conditional tests fail, the last **else** statement is performed. If there is no final **else** and all other conditions are false, no action will take place.

The following program demonstrates the **if-else-if** ladder:

```
// Demonstrate an if-else-if ladder.
class Ladder {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int x;

  for(x=0; x<6; x++) {
     if(x==1)
        System.out.println("x is one");
     else if(x==2)
        System.out.println("x is two");
     else if(x==3)

        System.out.println("x is three");
     else if(x==4)
        System.out.println("x is four");
     else
        System.out.println("x is not between 1 and 4");
     }
}</pre>
This is the default statement.
```

The program produces the following output:

```
x is not between 1 and 4
x is one
x is two
x is three
x is four
x is not between 1 and 4
```

As you can see, the default **else** is executed only if none of the preceding **if** statements succeeds.

#### The Traditional switch Statement

The second of Java's selection statements is the **switch**. The **switch** provides for a multiway branch. Thus, it enables a program to select among several alternatives. Although a series of nested **if** statements can perform multiway tests, for many situations the **switch** is a more efficient approach.

Before we continue, an important point needs to be made. Beginning with JDK 14, the **switch** has been significantly enhanced and expanded with several new features that go far beyond its original capabilities. Because of the substantial nature of the recent **switch** enhancements, they are described in Chapter 16, in the context of other recent additions to Java. Here, the **switch** is introduced in its traditional form. This is the form of **switch** that has been part of Java from the start and is in widespread use. It is also the form that will work in all Java development environments. The traditional **switch** works like this: the value of an expression is successively tested against a list of constants. When a match is found, the statement sequence associated with that match is executed.

The general form of the traditional **switch** statement is

```
switch(expression) {
    case constant1:
        statement sequence
        break;
    case constant2:
        statement sequence
        break;
    case constant3:
        statement sequence
        break;
```

```
.
default:
statement sequence
```

For versions of Java prior to JDK 7, the *expression* controlling the **switch** must resolve to type **byte**, **short**, **int**, **char**, or an enumeration. (Enumerations are described in Chapter 12.) However, today, *expression* can also be of type **String**. This means that modern versions of Java can use a string to control a **switch**. (This technique is demonstrated in Chapter 5, when **String** is described.) Frequently, the expression controlling a **switch** is simply a variable rather than a larger expression.

Each value specified in the **case** statements must be a unique constant expression (such as a literal value). Duplicate **case** values are not allowed. The type of each value must be compatible with the type of *expression*.

The **default** statement sequence is executed if no **case** constant matches the expression. The **default** is optional; if it is not present, no action takes place if all matches fail. When a match is found, the statements associated with that **case** are executed until the **break** is encountered or, in the case of **default** or the last **case**, until the end of the **switch** is reached.

The following program demonstrates the **switch**:

```
// Demonstrate the switch.
class SwitchDemo {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i;
    for(i=0; i<10; i++)
      switch(i) {
        case 0:
          System.out.println("i is zero");
          break;
        case 1:
          System.out.println("i is one");
        case 2:
          System.out.println("i is two");
          break;
        case 3:
          System.out.println("i is three");
          break;
        case 4:
          System.out.println("i is four");
          break;
        default:
          System.out.println("i is five or more");
```

The output produced by this program is shown here:

```
i is zero
i is one
i is two
i is three
i is four
i is five or more
```

As you can see, each time through the loop, the statements associated with the **case** constant that matches **i** are executed. All others are bypassed. When **i** is five or greater, no **case** statements match, so the **default** statement is executed.

Technically, the **break** statement is optional, although most applications of the **switch** will

use it. When encountered within the statement sequence of a **case**, the **break** statement causes program flow to exit from the entire **switch** statement and resume at the next statement outside the **switch**. However, if a **break** statement does not end the statement sequence associated with a **case**, then all the statements *at and following* the matching **case** will be executed until a **break** (or the end of the **switch**) is encountered. Thus, a **case** without a **break** will "fall through" to the next **case**.

For example, study the following program carefully. Before looking at the output, can you figure out what it will display on the screen?

```
// Demonstrate the switch without break statements.
class NoBreak {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i;
    for(i=0; i<=5; i++) {
      switch(i) {
        case 0:
          System.out.println("i is less than one");
          System.out.println("i is less than two");
        case 2:
                                                            The case statements
          System.out.println("i is less than three");
                                                            fall through here.
          System.out.println("i is less than four");
        case 4:
          System.out.println("i is less than five");
      System.out.println();
}
```

This program displays the following output:

```
i is less than one
i is less than two
i is less than three
i is less than four
i is less than five

i is less than two
i is less than three
i is less than four
i is less than four
i is less than four
i is less than five

i is less than four
i is less than four
i is less than five

i is less than five

i is less than five

i is less than four
i is less than five
```

As this program illustrates, execution will continue into the next **case** if no **break** statement is present.

You can have empty **case**s, as shown in this example:

```
switch(i) {
  case 1:
  case 2:
  case 3: System.out.println("i is 1, 2 or 3");
    break;
  case 4: System.out.println("i is 4");
    break;
}
```

In this fragment, if **i** has the value 1, 2, or 3, the first **println()** statement executes. If it is 4, the second **println()** statement executes. The "stacking" of **case**s, as shown in this example, is common when several **case**s share common code.

#### REMEMBER

Recently, the capabilities and features of **switch** have been substantially expanded beyond those offered by the traditional **switch** just described. Refer to Chapter 16 for details on the enhanced **switch**.

#### **Nested switch Statements**

It is possible to have a **switch** as part of the statement sequence of an outer **switch**. This is called a nested **switch**. Even if the **case** constants of the inner and outer **switch** contain common values, no conflicts will arise. For example, the following code fragment is perfectly acceptable:

```
switch(ch1) {
  case 'A': System.out.println("This A is part of outer switch.");
    switch(ch2) {
     case 'A':
        System.out.println("This A is part of inner switch");
        break;
     case 'B': // ...
  } // end of inner switch
  break;
  case 'B': // ...
```

# Try This 3-1 Start Building a Java Help System

Help.java

This project builds a simple help system that displays the syntax for the Java control statements. The program displays a menu containing the control statements and then waits for you to choose one. After one is chosen, the syntax of the statement is displayed. In this first version of the program, help is available for only the **if** and traditional **switch** statements. The other control statements are added in subsequent projects.

- 1. Create a file called Help.java.
- 2. The program begins by displaying the following menu:

```
Help on:

1. if

2. switch

Choose one:
```

To accomplish this, you will use the statement sequence shown here:

```
System.out.println("Help on:");
System.out.println(" 1. if");
System.out.println(" 2. switch");
System.out.print("Choose one: ");
```

**3.** Next, the program obtains the user's selection by calling **System.in.read()**, as shown here:

```
choice = (char) System.in.read();
```

**4.** Once the selection has been obtained, the program uses the **switch** statement shown here to display the syntax for the selected statement.

```
switch(choice) {
  case '1':
    System.out.println("The if:\n");
    System.out.println("if(condition) statement;");
    System.out.println("else statement;");
    break;
  case '2':
    System.out.println("The traditional switch:\n");
    System.out.println("switch(expression) {");
    System.out.println(" case constant:");
    System.out.println(" statement sequence");
    System.out.println(" break;");
    System.out.println(" // ...");
    System.out.println("}");
    break;
  default:
    System.out.print("Selection not found.");
```

Notice how the **default** clause catches invalid choices. For example, if the user enters 3, no **case** constants will match, causing the **default** sequence to execute.

**5.** Here is the entire **Help.java** program listing:

```
/*
   Try This 3-1
   A simple help system.
*/
class Help {
 public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
   char choice;
   System.out.println("Help on:");
   System.out.println(" 1. if");
   System.out.println(" 2. switch");
   System.out.print("Choose one: ");
    choice = (char) System.in.read();
   System.out.println("\n");
    switch(choice) {
      case '1':
        System.out.println("The if:\n");
        System.out.println("if(condition) statement;");
       System.out.println("else statement;");
       break;
     case '2':
       System.out.println("The traditional switch:\n");
       System.out.println("switch(expression) {");
       System.out.println("
                              case constant:");
       System.out.println("
                                statement sequence");
       System.out.println("
                                break;");
       System.out.println(" // ...");
       System.out.println("}");
       break;
     default:
       System.out.print("Selection not found.");
```

**6.** Here is a sample run.

```
Help on:
    1. if
    2. switch
Choose one: 1
The if:
if(condition) statement;
else statement;
```

### The for Loop

You have been using a simple form of the **for** loop since Chapter 1. You might be surprised at just how powerful and flexible the **for** loop is. Let's begin by reviewing the basics, starting with the most traditional forms of the **for**.

The general form of the **for** loop for repeating a single statement is

```
for(initialization; condition; iteration) statement;
```

```
For repeating a block, the general form is
```

```
for(initialization; condition; iteration)
{
   statement sequence
}
```

The *initialization* is usually an assignment statement that sets the initial value of the *loop control variable*, which acts as the counter that controls the loop. The *condition* is a Boolean expression that determines whether or not the loop will repeat. The *iteration* expression defines the amount by which the loop control variable will change each time the loop is repeated. Notice that these three major sections of the loop must be separated by semicolons. The **for** loop will continue to execute as long as the condition tests true. Once the condition becomes false, the loop will exit, and program execution will resume on the statement following the **for**.

### Ask the Expert

**Q:** Under what conditions should I use an if-else-if ladder rather than a switch when coding a multiway branch?

**A:** In general, use an **if-else-if** ladder when the conditions controlling the selection

process do not rely upon a single value. For example, consider the following **if-else-if** sequence:

```
if(x < 10) // ...
else if(y != 0) // ...
else if(!done) // ...</pre>
```

This sequence cannot be recoded into a **switch** because all three conditions involve different variables—and differing types. What variable would control the **switch**? Also, you will need to use an **if-else-if** ladder when testing floating-point values or other objects that are not of types valid for use in the expression controlling the **switch**.

The following program uses a **for** loop to print the square roots of the numbers between 1 and 99. It also displays the rounding error present for each square root.

Notice that the rounding error is computed by squaring the square root of each number. This result is then subtracted from the original number, thus yielding the rounding error.

The **for** loop can proceed in a positive or negative fashion, and it can change the loop control variable by any amount. For example, the following program prints the numbers 100 to –95, in decrements of 5:

An important point about **for** loops is that the conditional expression is always tested at the top of the loop. This means that the code inside the loop may not be executed at all if the condition is false to begin with. Here is an example:

```
for(count=10; count < 5; count++)
x += count; // this statement will not execute</pre>
```

This loop will never execute because its control variable, **count**, is greater than 5 when the loop is first entered. This makes the conditional expression, **count** < **5**, false from the outset; thus, not even one iteration of the loop will occur.

### Some Variations on the for Loop

The **for** is one of the most versatile statements in the Java language because it allows a wide range of variations. For example, multiple loop control variables can be used. Consider the following program:

The output from the program is shown here:

```
i and j: 0 10
i and j: 1 9
i and j: 2 8
i and j: 3 7
i and j: 4 6
```

Here, commas separate the two initialization statements and the two iteration expressions. When the loop begins, both **i** and **j** are initialized. Each time the loop repeats, **i** is incremented and **j** is decremented. Multiple loop control variables are often convenient and can simplify certain algorithms. You can have any number of initialization and iteration statements, but in practice, more than two or three make the **for** loop unwieldy.

The condition controlling the loop can be any valid Boolean expression. It does not need to involve the loop control variable. In the next example, the loop continues to execute until the user types the letter S at the keyboard:

```
// Loop until an S is typed.
class ForTest {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    int i;
    System.out.println("Press S to stop.");
    for(i = 0; (char) System.in.read() != 'S'; i++)
        System.out.println("Pass #" + i);
    }
}
```

#### **Missing Pieces**

Some interesting **for** loop variations are created by leaving pieces of the loop definition empty. In Java, it is possible for any or all of the initialization, condition, or iteration portions of the **for** loop to be blank. For example, consider the following program:

Here, the iteration expression of the **for** is empty. Instead, the loop control variable **i** is incremented inside the body of the loop. This means that each time the loop repeats, **i** is tested to see whether it equals 10, but no further action takes place. Of course, since **i** is still

incremented within the body of the loop, the loop runs normally, displaying the following output:

```
Pass #0
Pass #1
Pass #2
Pass #3
Pass #4
Pass #5
Pass #6
Pass #7
Pass #8
Pass #9
```

In the next example, the initialization portion is also moved out of the **for**:

In this version, **i** is initialized before the loop begins, rather than as part of the **for**. Normally, you will want to initialize the loop control variable inside the **for**. Placing the initialization outside of the loop is generally done only when the initial value is derived through a complex process that does not lend itself to containment inside the **for** statement.

#### The Infinite Loop

You can create an *infinite loop* (a loop that never terminates) using the **for** by leaving the conditional expression empty. For example, the following fragment shows the way many Java programmers create an infinite loop:

```
for(;;) // intentionally infinite loop
{
    //...
}
```

This loop will run forever. Although there are some programming tasks, such as operating

system command processors, that require an infinite loop, most "infinite loops" are really just loops with special termination requirements. Near the end of this chapter, you will see how to halt a loop of this type. (Hint: It's done using the **break** statement.)

#### **Loops with No Body**

In Java, the body associated with a **for** loop (or any other loop) can be empty. This is because a *null statement* is syntactically valid. Body-less loops are often useful. For example, the following program uses one to sum the numbers 1 through 5:

```
// The body of a loop can be empty.
class Empty3 {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i;
    int sum = 0;

    // sum the numbers through 5
    for(i = 1; i <= 5; sum += i++);  No body in this loop!

    System.out.println("Sum is " + sum);
}</pre>
```

The output from the program is shown here:

```
Sum is 15
```

Notice that the summation process is handled entirely within the **for** statement, and no body is needed. Pay special attention to the iteration expression:

```
sum += i++
```

Don't be intimidated by statements like this. They are common in professionally written Java programs and are easy to understand if you break them down into their parts. In other words, this statement says, "Add to **sum** the value of **sum** plus **i**, then increment **i**." Thus, it is the same as this sequence of statements:

```
sum = sum + i;
i++;
```

# **Declaring Loop Control Variables Inside the for Loop**

Often the variable that controls a **for** loop is needed only for the purposes of the loop and is not used elsewhere. When this is the case, it is possible to declare the variable inside the initialization portion of the **for**. For example, the following program computes both the

summation and the factorial of the numbers 1 through 5. It declares its loop control variable **i** inside the **for**.

When you declare a variable inside a **for** loop, there is one important point to remember: the scope of that variable ends when the **for** statement does. (That is, the scope of the variable is limited to the **for** loop.) Outside the **for** loop, the variable will cease to exist. Thus, in the preceding example, **i** is not accessible outside the **for** loop. If you need to use the loop control variable elsewhere in your program, you will not be able to declare it inside the **for** loop.

Before moving on, you might want to experiment with your own variations on the **for** loop. As you will find, it is a fascinating loop.

#### The Enhanced for Loop

There is another form of the **for** loop, called the *enhanced* **for**. The enhanced **for** provides a streamlined way to cycle through the contents of a collection of objects, such as an array. The enhanced **for** loop is discussed in Chapter 5, after arrays have been introduced.

#### The while Loop

Another of Java's loops is the **while**. The general form of the **while** loop is while(condition) statement;

where statement may be a single statement or a block of statements, and condition defines the

condition that controls the loop. The condition may be any valid Boolean expression. The loop repeats while the condition is true. When the condition becomes false, program control passes to the line immediately following the loop.

Here is a simple example in which a **while** is used to print the alphabet:

```
// Demonstrate the while loop.
class WhileDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    char ch;

    // print the alphabet using a while loop
    ch = 'a';
    while(ch <= 'z') {
        System.out.print(ch);
        ch++;
    }
  }
}</pre>
```

Here, **ch** is initialized to the letter a. Each time through the loop, **ch** is output and then incremented. This process continues until **ch** is greater than z.

As with the **for** loop, the **while** checks the conditional expression at the top of the loop, which means that the loop code may not execute at all. This eliminates the need for performing a separate test before the loop. The following program illustrates this characteristic of the **while** loop. It computes the integer powers of 2, from 0 to 9.

The output from the program is shown here:

```
2 to the 0 power is 1
2 to the 1 power is 2
2 to the 2 power is 4
2 to the 3 power is 8
2 to the 4 power is 16
2 to the 5 power is 32
2 to the 6 power is 64
2 to the 7 power is 128
2 to the 8 power is 256
2 to the 9 power is 512
```

Notice that the **while** loop executes only when **e** is greater than 0. Thus, when **e** is zero, as it is in the first iteration of the **for** loop, the **while** loop is skipped.

### **Ask the Expert**

**Q:** Given the flexibility inherent in all of Java's loops, what criteria should I use when selecting a loop? That is, how do I choose the right loop for a specific job?

**A:** Use a **for** loop when performing a known number of iterations based on the value

of a loop control variable. Use the **do-while** when you need a loop that will always perform at least one iteration. The **while** is best used when the loop will repeat until some condition becomes false.

### The do-while Loop

The last of Java's loops is the **do-while**. Unlike the **for** and the **while** loops, in which the condition is tested at the top of the loop, the **do-while** loop checks its condition at the bottom of the loop. This means that a **do-while** loop will always execute at least once. The general form of the **do-while** loop is

```
do {
    statements;
} while(condition);
```

Although the braces are not necessary when only one statement is present, they are often used to improve readability of the **do-while** construct, thus preventing confusion with the **while**. The **do-while** loop executes as long as the conditional expression is true.

The following program loops until the user enters the letter q:

```
// Demonstrate the do-while loop.
class DWDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch;

    do {
        System.out.print("Press a key followed by ENTER: ");
        ch = (char) System.in.read(); // get a char
        } while(ch != 'q');
    }
}
```

Using a **do-while** loop, we can further improve the guessing game program from earlier in this chapter. This time, the program loops until you guess the letter.

```
// Guess the letter game, 4th version.
class Guess4 {
 public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
   char ch, ignore, answer = 'K';
   do {
      System.out.println("I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.");
      System.out.print("Can you guess it: ");
      // read a character
      ch = (char) System.in.read();
      // discard any other characters in the input buffer
      do {
        ignore = (char) System.in.read();
      } while(ignore != '\n');
      if (ch == answer) System.out.println("** Right **");
      else {
        System.out.print("...Sorry, you're ");
        if(ch < answer) System.out.println("too low");</pre>
        else System.out.println("too high");
        System.out.println("Try again!\n");
    } while(answer != ch);
}
  Here is a sample run:
I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.
Can you guess it: A
...Sorry, you're too low
Try again!
I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.
Can you guess it: Z
...Sorry, you're too high
Try again!
I'm thinking of a letter between A and Z.
Can you guess it: K
** Right **
```

Notice one other thing of interest in this program. There are two **do-while** loops in the program. The first loops until the user guesses the letter. Its operation and meaning should be clear. The second **do-while** loop, shown again here, warrants some explanation:

```
// discard any other characters in the input buffer
do {
  ignore = (char) System.in.read();
} while(ignore != '\n');
```

As explained earlier, console input is line buffered—you have to press enter before characters are sent. Pressing enter causes a carriage return and a line feed (newline) sequence to be generated. These characters are left pending in the input buffer. Also, if you typed more than one key before pressing enter, they too would still be in the input buffer. This loop discards those characters by continuing to read input until the end of the line is reached. If they were not discarded, then those characters would also be sent to the program as guesses, which is not what is wanted. (To see the effect of this, you might try removing the inner **do-while** loop.) In Chapter 10, after you have learned more about Java, some other, higher-level ways of handling console input are described. However, the use of **read()** here gives you insight into how the foundation of Java's I/O system operates. It also shows another example of Java's loops in action.

# Try This 3-2 Improve the Java Help System

Help2.java

This project expands on the Java help system that was created in Try This 3-1. This version adds the syntax for the **for**, **while**, and **do-while** loops. It also checks the user's menu selection, looping until a valid response is entered.

- **1.** Copy **Help.java** to a new file called **Help2.java**.
- **2.** Change the first part of **main()** so that it uses a loop to display the choices, as shown here:

```
public static void main(String[] args)
  throws java.io.IOException {
  char choice, ignore;
 do {
    System.out.println("Help on:");
    System.out.println(" 1. if");
    System.out.println(" 2. switch");
    System.out.println(" 3. for");
    System.out.println(" 4. while");
    System.out.println(" 5. do-while\n");
    System.out.print("Choose one: ");
    choice = (char) System.in.read();
    do {
      ignore = (char) System.in.read();
    } while(ignore != '\n');
  } while( choice < '1' | choice > '5');
```

Notice that a nested **do-while** loop is used to discard any unwanted characters remaining in the input buffer. After making this change, the program will loop, displaying the menu until the user enters a response that is between 1 and 5.

**3.** Expand the **switch** statement to include the **for**, **while**, and **do-while** loops, as shown here:

```
switch(choice) {
  case '1':
    System.out.println("The if:\n");
    System.out.println("if(condition) statement;");
    System.out.println("else statement;");
    break;
  case '2':
    System.out.println("The traditional switch:\n");
    System.out.println("switch(expression) {");
    System.out.println(" case constant:");
    System.out.println(" statement sequence");
    System.out.println(" break;");
```

```
System.out.println(" // ...");
  System.out.println("}");
 break;
case '3':
  System.out.println("The for:\n");
  System.out.print("for(init; condition; iteration)");
  System.out.println(" statement;");
 break;
case '4':
  System.out.println("The while:\n");
  System.out.println("while(condition) statement;");
 break;
case '5':
  System.out.println("The do-while:\n");
  System.out.println("do {");
  System.out.println(" statement;");
 System.out.println("} while (condition);");
 break;
```

Notice that no **default** statement is present in this version of the **switch**. Since the menu loop ensures that a valid response will be entered, it is no longer necessary to include a **default** statement to handle an invalid choice.

**4.** Here is the entire **Help2.java** program listing:

```
/*
    Try This 3-2
    An improved Help system that uses a
    do-while to process a menu selection.
*/
class Help2 {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char choice, ignore;
    do {
      System.out.println("Help on:");
      System.out.println(" 1. if");
      System.out.println(" 2. switch");
      System.out.println(" 3. for");
      System.out.println(" 4. while");
      System.out.println(" 5. do-while\n");
      System.out.print("Choose one: ");
```

```
choice = (char) System.in.read();
    do {
      ignore = (char) System.in.read();
    } while(ignore != '\n');
  } while( choice < '1' | choice > '5');
  System.out.println("\n");
  switch(choice) {
    case '1':
      System.out.println("The if:\n");
      System.out.println("if(condition) statement;");
      System.out.println("else statement;");
      break;
    case '2':
      System.out.println("The traditional switch:\n");
      System.out.println("switch(expression) {");
      System.out.println(" case constant:");
      System.out.println("
                               statement sequence");
      System.out.println(" break;");
      System.out.println(" // ...");
      System.out.println("}");
      break;
    case '3':
      System.out.println("The for:\n");
      System.out.print("for(init; condition; iteration)");
      System.out.println(" statement;");
      break:
    case '4':
      System.out.println("The while:\n");
      System.out.println("while(condition) statement;");
      break:
    case '5':
      System.out.println("The do-while:\n");
      System.out.println("do {");
      System.out.println(" statement;");
      System.out.println("} while (condition);");
      break;
}
```

### Use break to Exit a Loop

It is possible to force an immediate exit from a loop, bypassing any remaining code in the body of the loop and the loop's conditional test, by using the **break** statement. When a **break** statement is encountered inside a loop, the loop is terminated and program control resumes at the next statement following the loop. Here is a simple example:

```
// Using break to exit a loop.
class BreakDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int num;

  num = 100;

  // loop while i-squared is less than num
  for(int i=0; i < num; i++) {
    if(i*i >= num) break; // terminate loop if i*i >= 100
    System.out.print(i + " ");
  }
  System.out.println("Loop complete.");
}
```

This program generates the following output:

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Loop complete.
```

As you can see, although the **for** loop is designed to run from 0 to **num** (which in this case is 100), the **break** statement causes it to terminate early, when **i** squared is greater than or equal to **num**.

The **break** statement can be used with any of Java's loops, including intentionally infinite loops. For example, the following program simply reads input until the user types the letter q:

```
// Read input until a q is received.
class Break2 {
  public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char ch;

    for(;;) {
        ch = (char) System.in.read(); // get a char if(ch == 'q') break;
    }
    System.out.println("You pressed q!");
}
```

When used inside a set of nested loops, the **break** statement will break out of only the innermost loop. For example:

```
// Using break with nested loops.
class Break3 {
  public static void main(String[] args) {

   for(int i=0; i<3; i++) {
     System.out.println("Outer loop count: " + i);
     System.out.print(" Inner loop count: ");

   int t = 0;
   while(t < 100) {
     if(t == 10) break; // terminate loop if t is 10
     System.out.print(t + " ");
     t++;
   }
   System.out.println();
  }
  System.out.println("Loops complete.");
}</pre>
```

This program generates the following output:

```
Outer loop count: 0
Inner loop count: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Outer loop count: 1
Inner loop count: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Outer loop count: 2
Inner loop count: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Loops complete.
```

As you can see, the **break** statement in the inner loop causes the termination of only that loop. The outer loop is unaffected.

Here are two other points to remember about **break**. First, more than one **break** statement may appear in a loop. However, be careful. Too many **break** statements have the tendency to destructure your code. Second, the **break** that terminates a **switch** statement affects only that **switch** statement and not any enclosing loops.

#### Use break as a Form of goto

In addition to its uses with the **switch** statement and loops, the **break** statement can be employed by itself to provide a "civilized" form of the goto statement. Java does not have a goto statement, because it provides an unstructured way to alter the flow of program execution. Programs that make extensive use of the goto are usually hard to understand and hard to maintain. There are, however, a few places where the goto is a useful and legitimate device. For example, the goto can be helpful when exiting from a deeply nested set of loops. To handle such situations, Java defines an expanded form of the **break** statement. By using this form of **break**, you can, for example, break out of one or more blocks of code. These blocks need not be part of a loop or a **switch**. They can be any block. Further, you can specify precisely where execution will resume, because this form of **break** works with a label. As you will see, **break** gives you the benefits of a goto without its problems.

The general form of the labeled **break** statement is shown here:

break *label*;

Typically, *label* is the name of a label that identifies a block of code. When this form of **break** executes, control is transferred out of the named block of code. The labeled block of code must enclose the **break** statement, but it does not need to be the immediately enclosing block. This means that you can use a labeled **break** statement to exit from a set of nested blocks. But you cannot use **break** to transfer control to a block of code that does not enclose the **break** statement.

To name a block, put a label at the start of it. The block being labeled can be a stand-alone block, or a statement that has a block as its target. A *label* is any valid Java identifier followed by a colon. Once you have labeled a block, you can then use this label as the target of a **break** statement. Doing so causes execution to resume at the *end* of the labeled block. For example, the following program shows three nested blocks:

```
// Using break with a label.
class Break4 {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
   int i;
   for (i=1; i<4; i++) {
one:
two:
three:
           System.out.println("\ni is " + i);
           if(i==2) break two;
           if(i==3) break three;
           // this is never reached
           System.out.println("won't print");
         System.out.println("After block three.");
       System.out.println("After block two.");
     System.out.println("After block one.");
   System.out.println("After for.");
}
i is 1
After block one.
i is 2
After block two.
After block one.
i is 3
After block three.
After block two.
After block one.
After for.
```

Let's look closely at the program to understand precisely why this output is produced. When **i** is 1, the first **if** statement succeeds, causing a **break** to the end of the block of code defined by label **one**. This causes **After block one**. to print. When **i** is 2, the second **if** succeeds, causing control to be transferred to the end of the block labeled by **two**. This causes the messages **After block two**. and **After block one**. to be printed, in that order. When **i** is 3, the

third **if** succeeds, and control is transferred to the end of the block labeled by **three**. Now, all three messages are displayed.

Here is another example. This time, **break** is being used to jump outside of a series of nested **for** loops. When the **break** statement in the inner loop is executed, program control jumps to the end of the block defined by the outer **for** loop, which is labeled by **done**. This causes the remainder of all three loops to be bypassed.

```
// Another example of using break with a label.
class Break5 {
  public static void main(String[] args) {

done:
    for(int i=0; i<10; i++) {
        for(int j=0; j<10; j++) {
            for(int k=0; k<10; k++) {
                System.out.println(k + " ");
                if(k == 5) break done; // jump to done
            }
            System.out.println("After k loop"); // won't execute
        }
        System.out.println("After j loop"); // won't execute
        }
        System.out.println("After i loop");
    }
}</pre>
```

The output from the program is shown here:

```
0
1
2
3
4
5
After i loop
```

Precisely where you put a label is very important—especially when working with loops. For example, consider the following program:

x and y: 4 1

```
// Where you put a label is important.
class Break6 {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int x=0, y=0;
// here, put label before for statement.
stop1: for (x=0; x < 5; x++) {
         for (y = 0; y < 5; y++) {
           if(y == 2) break stop1;
           System.out.println("x and y: " + x + " " + y);
       System.out.println();
// now, put label immediately before {
      for(x=0; x < 5; x++)
stop2: {
         for (y = 0; y < 5; y++) {
           if(y == 2) break stop2;
           System.out.println("x and y: " + x + " " + y);
}
  The output from this program is shown here:
x and y: 0 0
x and y: 0 1
x and y: 0 0
x and y: 0 1
x and y: 1 0
x and y: 1 1
x and y: 2 0
x and y: 2 1
x and y: 3 0
x and y: 3 1
x and y: 4 0
```

In the program, both sets of nested loops are the same except for one point. In the first set, the label precedes the outer **for** loop. In this case, when the **break** executes, it transfers

control to the end of the entire **for** block, skipping the rest of the outer loop's iterations. In the second set, the label precedes the outer **for**'s opening curly brace. Thus, when **break stop2** executes, control is transferred to the end of the outer **for**'s block, causing the next iteration to occur.

Keep in mind that you cannot **break** to any label that is not defined for an enclosing block. For example, the following program is invalid and will not compile:

```
// This program contains an error.
class BreakErr {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    one: for(int i=0; i<3; i++) {
       System.out.print("Pass " + i + ": ");
    }

  for(int j=0; j<100; j++) {
    if(j == 10) break one; // WRONG
       System.out.print(j + " ");
    }
}</pre>
```

Since the loop labeled **one** does not enclose the **break** statement, it is not possible to transfer control to that block.

## Ask the Expert

- Q: You say that the goto is unstructured and that the break with a label offers a better alternative. But really, doesn't breaking to a label, which might be many lines of code and levels of nesting removed from the break, also destructure code?
- **A:** The short answer is yes! However, in those cases in which a jarring change in program flow is required, breaking to a label still retains some structure. A **goto** has none!

### **Use continue**

It is possible to force an early iteration of a loop, bypassing the loop's normal control structure. This is accomplished using **continue**. The **continue** statement forces the next iteration of the loop to take place, skipping any code between itself and the conditional

expression that controls the loop. Thus, **continue** is essentially the complement of **break**. For example, the following program uses **continue** to help print the even numbers between 0 and 100:

```
// Use continue.
class ContDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i;

    // print even numbers between 0 and 100
    for(i = 0; i<=100; i++) {
       if((i%2) != 0) continue; // iterate
        System.out.println(i);
    }
  }
}</pre>
```

Only even numbers are printed, because an odd one will cause the loop to iterate early, bypassing the call to **println()**.

In **while** and **do-while** loops, a **continue** statement will cause control to go directly to the conditional expression and then continue the looping process. In the case of the **for**, the iteration expression of the loop is evaluated, then the conditional expression is executed, and then the loop continues.

As with the **break** statement, **continue** may specify a label to describe which enclosing loop to continue. Here is an example program that uses **continue** with a label:

The output from the program is shown here:

```
Outer loop pass 1, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 2, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 3, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 4, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 5, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 6, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 7, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 8, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 9, Inner loop: 1234
Outer loop pass 9, Inner loop: 1234
```

As the output shows, when the **continue** executes, control passes to the outer loop, skipping the remainder of the inner loop.

Good uses of **continue** are rare. One reason is that Java provides a rich set of loop statements that fit most applications. However, for those special circumstances in which early iteration is needed, the **continue** statement provides a structured way to accomplish it.

# Try This 3-3 Finish the Java Help System

```
Help3.java
```

This project puts the finishing touches on the Java help system that was created in the previous projects. This version adds the syntax for **break** and **continue**. It also allows the user to request the syntax for more than one statement. It does this by adding an outer loop that runs until the user enters **q** as a menu selection.

- **1.** Copy **Help2.java** to a new file called **Help3.java**.
- **2.** Surround all of the program code with an infinite **for** loop. Break out of this loop, using **break**, when a letter **q** is entered. Since this loop surrounds all of the program code, breaking out of this loop causes the program to terminate.
- **3.** Change the menu loop as shown here:

```
do {
  System.out.println("Help on:");
 System.out.println("
                        1. if");
  System.out.println("
                        2. switch");
                        3. for");
  System.out.println("
                        4. while");
  System.out.println("
                        5. do-while");
 System.out.println("
  System.out.println("
                        6. break");
  System.out.println("
                       7. continue\n");
  System.out.print("Choose one (q to quit): ");
  choice = (char) System.in.read();
```

```
do {
   ignore = (char) System.in.read();
} while(ignore != '\n');
} while( choice < '1' | choice > '7' & choice != 'q');
```

Notice that this loop now includes the **break** and **continue** statements. It also accepts the letter **q** as a valid choice.

**4.** Expand the **switch** statement to include the **break** and **continue** statements, as shown here:

```
case '6':
   System.out.println("The break:\n");
   System.out.println("break; or break label;");
   break;
case '7':
   System.out.println("The continue:\n");
   System.out.println("continue; or continue label;");
   break;
```

**5.** Here is the entire **Help3.java** program listing:

```
/*
   Try This 3-3
   The finished Java statement Help system
   that processes multiple requests.
*/
class Help3 {
 public static void main(String[] args)
    throws java.io.IOException {
    char choice, ignore;
    for(;;) {
      do {
        System.out.println("Help on:");
        System.out.println(" 1. if");
        System.out.println(" 2. switch");
        System.out.println(" 3. for");
        System.out.println(" 4. while");
        System.out.println(" 5. do-while");
        System.out.println(" 6. break");
        System.out.println(" 7. continue\n");
        System.out.print("Choose one (q to quit): ");
        choice = (char) System.in.read();
        do {
          ignore = (char) System.in.read();
        } while(ignore != '\n');
```

```
} while( choice < '1' | choice > '7' & choice != 'q');
if(choice == 'q') break;
System.out.println("\n");
switch(choice) {
  case '1':
    System.out.println("The if:\n");
    System.out.println("if(condition) statement;");
    System.out.println("else statement;");
    break:
  case '2':
    System.out.println("The tradtional switch:\n");
    System.out.println("switch(expression) {");
    System.out.println(" case constant:");
    System.out.println("
                           statement sequence");
    System.out.println("
                           break;");
    System.out.println(" // ...");
    System.out.println("}");
    break:
  case '3':
    System.out.println("The for:\n");
    System.out.print("for(init; condition; iteration)");
    System.out.println(" statement;");
    break;
  case '4':
    System.out.println("The while:\n");
    System.out.println("while(condition) statement;");
    break:
  case '5':
    System.out.println("The do-while:\n");
    System.out.println("do {");
    System.out.println(" statement;");
    System.out.println("} while (condition);");
    break:
  case '6':
    System.out.println("The break:\n");
    System.out.println("break; or break label;");
    break;
  case '7':
    System.out.println("The continue:\n");
    System.out.println("continue; or continue label;");
    break;
System.out.println();
```

```
} }
```

**6.** Here is a sample run:

```
Help on:
  1. if
  2. switch
  3. for
  4. while
  5. do-while
  6. break
  7. continue
Choose one (q to quit): 1
The if:
if (condition) statement;
else statement;
Help on:
  1. if
  2. switch
  3. for
  4. while
  5. do-while
  6. break
  7. continue
Choose one (q to quit): 6
The break:
break; or break label;
Help on:
  1. if
  2. switch
  3. for
  4. while
  5. do-while
  6. break
  7. continue
Choose one (q to quit): q
```

### **Nested Loops**

As you have seen in some of the preceding examples, one loop can be nested inside of another. Nested loops are used to solve a wide variety of programming problems and are an essential part of programming. So, before leaving the topic of Java's loop statements, let's look at one more nested loop example. The following program uses a nested **for** loop to find the factors of the numbers from 2 to 100:

Here is a portion of the output produced by the program:

```
Factors of 2:
Factors of 3:
Factors of 4: 2
Factors of 5:
Factors of 6: 2 3
Factors of 7:
Factors of 8: 2 4
Factors of 9: 3
Factors of 10: 2 5
Factors of 11:
Factors of 12: 2 3 4 6
Factors of 13:
Factors of 14: 2 7
Factors of 15: 3 5
Factors of 16: 2 4 8
Factors of 17:
Factors of 18: 2 3 6 9
Factors of 19:
Factors of 20: 2 4 5 10
```

In the program, the outer loop runs **i** from 2 through 100. The inner loop successively tests all numbers from 2 up to **i**, printing those that evenly divide **i**. Extra challenge: The preceding program can be made more efficient. Can you see how? (Hint: The number of iterations in the inner loop can be reduced.)

#### **✓ Chapter 3** Self Test

- **1.** Write a program that reads characters from the keyboard until a period is received. Have the program count the number of spaces. Report the total at the end of the program.
- 2. Show the general form of the **if-else-if** ladder.
- **3.** Given

```
if(x < 10)
  if(y > 100) {
    if(!done) x = z;
    else y = z;
  }
else System.out.println("error"); // what if?
```

to what **if** does the last **else** associate?

- **4.** Show the **for** statement for a loop that counts from 1000 to 0 by -2.
- **5.** Is the following fragment valid?

```
for(int i = 0; i < num; i++)
   sum += i;

count = i;</pre>
```

- 6. Explain what break does. Be sure to explain both of its forms.
- 7. In the following fragment, after the **break** statement executes, what is displayed?

```
for(i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
  while(running) {
    if(x<y) break;
    // ...
}
  System.out.println("after while");
}
System.out.println("After for");</pre>
```

**8.** What does the following fragment print?

```
for(int i = 0; i<10; i++) {
    System.out.print(i + " ");
    if((i%2) == 0) continue;
    System.out.println();
}</pre>
```

- **9.** The iteration expression in a **for** loop need not always alter the loop control variable by a fixed amount. Instead, the loop control variable can change in any arbitrary way. Using this concept, write a program that uses a **for** loop to generate and display the progression 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, and so on.
- **10.** The ASCII lowercase letters are separated from the uppercase letters by 32. Thus, to convert a lowercase letter to uppercase, subtract 32 from it. Use this information to write a program that reads characters from the keyboard. Have it convert all lowercase letters to uppercase, and all uppercase letters to lowercase, displaying the result. Make no changes to any other character. Have the program stop when the user enters a period. At the end, have the program display the number of case changes that have taken place.
- **11.** What is an infinite loop?
- **12.** When using **break** with a label, must the label be on a block that contains the **break**?