

# Preferences

## a. What is Shared Preferences?

The `SharedPreferences` class provides a general framework that allows you to save and retrieve persistent key-value pairs of primitive data types.

To read the preferences values in any part of your application, you can use

```
SharedPreferences sp =  
    preferenceManager.getDefaultSharedPreferences(getBaseContext());  
String struserName = sp.getString("username","NA");  
Boolean bAppUpdates =  
    sp.getBoolean("applicationUpdates",false);  
String downloadType = sp.getString("downloadType","1");
```

The preferences are saved by default in the `data/data/packagename/shared_prefs/packagename_preferences.xml`.

To get a `SharedPreferences` object for your application, use one of two methods:

`getSharedPreferences()` - Use this if you need multiple preferences files identified by name, which you specify with the first parameter.

`getPreferences()` - Use this if you need only one preferences file for your Activity. Because this will be the only preferences file for your Activity, you don't supply a name.

To write values:

Call `edit()` to get a `SharedPreferences.Editor`.

Add values with methods such as `putBoolean()` and `putString()`.  
Commit the new values with `commit()`  
To read values, use SharedPreferences methods such as `getBoolean()` and `getString()`.

b. What values can be saved in SharedPreferences?

You can use SharedPreferences to save any primitive data: booleans, floats, ints, longs, and strings. This data will persist across user sessions (even if your application is killed).