Java Basics cheatsheet

Key Terms

- Most Java programming involves calling **methods** of **objects**. The syntax for this is obj.method(param1, param2).

- Objects are created when we **instantiate classes**. We do so with the *new* keyword: new Cat("Ziggy"). This calls the class **constructor**.

- Classes can **extend** other classes, which means that they inherit all the functionality from those other classes (but they can also overwrite some of it).

- We also have **interfaces** which are a set of method signatures. A class can **implement** an interface if it has implementations for all the methods indicated in the interface.

- The this keyword is used in an object method to refer to the object itself, and to provide access to its **fields**.

Visibility

Classes, Variables, and Methods etc have *visibility* indicated by a keyword:

public Can be accessed by anyone.

private Can only be accessed from objects of the class that contains them.

package-private Can be accessed by any classes that are within the same package. This is also the default, if no specific word is used.

protected Can be accessed by subclasses of the class.