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Object class in Java

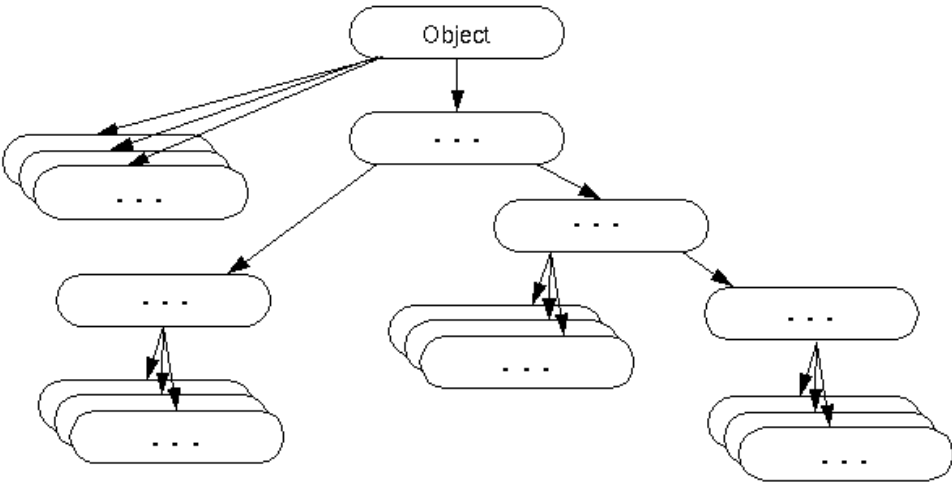
The **Object class** is the parent class of all the classes in java by default. In other words, it is the topmost class of java.



The Object class is beneficial if you want to refer any object whose type you don't know. Notice that parent class reference variable can refer the child class object, known as upcasting.

Let's take an example, there is `getObject()` method that returns an object but it can be of any type like `Employee`, `Student` etc, we can use Object class reference to refer that object. For example:

```
Object obj=getObject();//we don't know what object will be returned from this method
```

The Object class provides some common behaviors to all the objects such as object can be compared, object can be cloned, object can be notified etc.



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Methods of Object class

The Object class provides many methods. They are as follows:

Method	Description
public final Class getClass()	returns the Class class object of this object. The Class class can further be used to get the metadata of this class.
public int hashCode()	returns the hashCode number for this object.
public boolean equals(Object obj)	compares the given object to this object.
protected Object clone() throws CloneNotSupportedException	creates and returns the exact copy (clone) of this object.
public String toString()	returns the string representation of this object.
public final void notify()	wakes up single thread, waiting on this object's monitor.
public final void notifyAll()	wakes up all the threads, waiting on this object's monitor.
public final void wait(long timeout)throws InterruptedException	causes the current thread to wait for the specified milliseconds, until another thread notifies (invokes notify() or notifyAll() method).

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public final void wait(long timeout,int nanos)throws InterruptedException	causes the current thread to wait for the specified milliseconds and nanoseconds, until another thread notifies (invokes notify() or notifyAll() method).
public final void wait()throws InterruptedException	causes the current thread to wait, until another thread notifies (invokes notify() or notifyAll() method).
protected void finalize()throws Throwable	is invoked by the garbage collector before object is being garbage collected.

We will have the detailed learning of these methods in next chapters.

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