Home   Java   Programs   OOPs   String   Exception   Multithreading   Collections

Home   Java   Programs   OOPs   String   Exception   Multithreading   Collections

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

Method in Java

In general, a **method** is a way to perform some task. Similarly, the **method in Java** is a collection of instructions that performs a specific task. It provides the reusability of code. We can also easily modify code using **methods**. In this section, we will learn **what is a method in Java, types of methods, method declaration,** and **how to call a method in Java**.

What is a method in Java?

A **method** is a block of code or collection of statements or a set of code grouped together to perform a certain task or operation. It is used to achieve the **reusability** of code. We write a method once and use it many times. We do not require to write code again and again. It also provides the **easy modification** and **readability** of code, just by adding or removing a chunk of code. The method is executed only when we call or invoke it.

The most important method in Java is the **main()** method. If you want to read more about the main() method, go through the link https://www.javatpoint.com/java-main-method.

Method Declaration

The method declaration provides information about method attributes, such as visibility, return-type, name, and arguments. It has six components that are known as **method header**, as we have shown in the following figure.
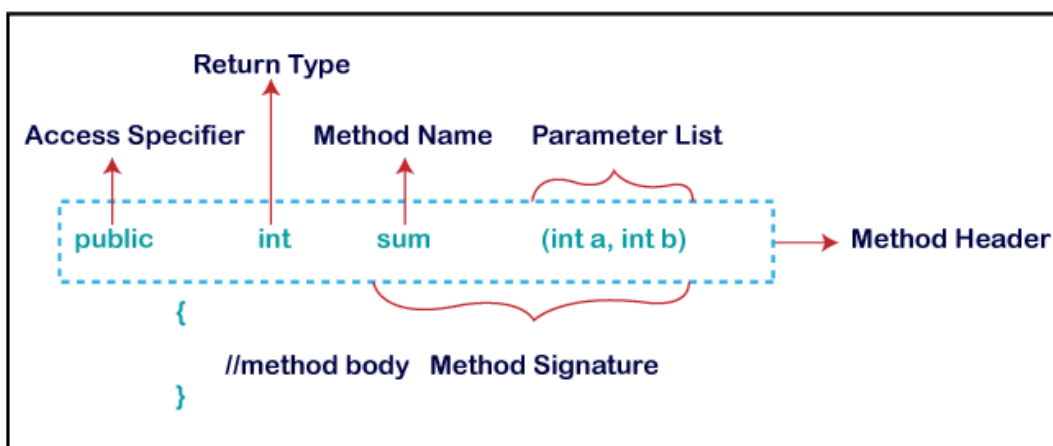
Every method has a method signature. It is a part of the method declaration. It includes the
parameter list.

Access Specifier: Access specifier or modifier is the access type of the method. It specifies the visibility of the method. Java provides **four** types of access specifier:

- ○ **Public:** The method is accessible by all classes when we use public specifier in our application.
- ○ **Private:** When we use a private access specifier, the method is accessible only in the classes in which it is defined.
- ○ **Protected:** When we use protected access specifier, the method is accessible within the same package or subclasses in a different package.
- ○ **Default:** When we do not use any access specifier in the method declaration, Java uses default access specifier by default. It is visible only from the same package only.

Return Type: Return type is a data type that the method returns. It may have a primitive data type, object, collection, void, etc. If the method does not return anything, we use void keyword.

Method Name: It is a unique name that is used to define the name of a method. It must be corresponding to the functionality of the method. Suppose, if we are creating a method for subtraction of two numbers, the method name must be **subtraction().** A method is invoked by its name.

Parameter List: It is the list of parameters separated by a comma and enclosed in the pair of parentheses. It contains the data type and variable name. If the method has no parameter, left the parentheses blank.

Method Body: It is a part of the method declaration. It contains all the actions to be performed. It is enclosed within the pair of curly braces.

Naming a Method

While defining a method, remember that the method name must be a **verb** and start with a **lowercase** letter. If the method name has more than two words, the first name must be a verb followed by adjective or noun. In the multi-word method name, the first letter of each word must be in **uppercase** except the first word. For example:

Single-word method name: sum(), area()

Multi-word method name: areaOfCircle(), stringComparision()

It is also possible that a method has the same name as another method name in the same class, it is known as **method overloading**.

Types of Method

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP   ⌐f methods in Java:

- Predefined Method

- User-defined Method

Predefined Method

In Java, predefined methods are the method that is already defined in the Java class libraries is known as predefined methods. It is also known as the **standard library method** or **built-in method**. We can directly use these methods just by calling them in the program at any point. Some pre-defined methods are **length(), equals(), compareTo(), sqrt(),** etc. When we call any of the predefined methods in our program, a series of codes related to the corresponding method runs in the background that is already stored in the library.

Each and every predefined method is defined inside a class. Such as **print()** method is defined in the **java.io.PrintStream** class. It prints the statement that we write inside the method. For example, **print("Java")**, it prints Java on the console.

Let's see an example of the predefined method.

Demo.java

```
public class Demo
{
public static void main(String[] args)
{
// using the max() method of Math class
System.out.print("The maximum number is: " + Math.max(9,7));
}
}
```

Output:

```
The maximum number is: 9
```

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

In the above example, we have used three predefined methods **main(), print(),** and **max()**. We have used these methods directly without declaration because they are predefined. The print() method is a method of **PrintStream** class that prints the result on the console. The max() method is a method of the **Math** class that returns the greater of two numbers.

We can also see the method signature of any predefined method by using the link https://docs.oracle.com/. When we go through the link and see the max() method signature, we find the following:

```
max

public static int max(int a,
                      int b)

Returns the greater of two int values.
same value.

Parameters:
a - an argument.

b - another argument.

Returns:
the larger of a and b.
```

In the above method signature, we see that the method signature has access specifier **public**, non-access modifier **static**, return type **int**, method name **max(),** parameter list **(int a, int b).** In the above example, instead of defining the method, we have just invoked the method. This is the advantage of a predefined method. It makes programming less complicated.

Similarly, we can also see the method signature of the print() method.

User-defined Method

The method written by the user or programmer is known as **a user-defined** method. These methods are modified according to the requirement.

How to Create a User-defined Method

Let's create a user defined method that checks the number is even or odd. First, we will define the method.

```java
//user defined method
public static void findEvenOdd(int num)
{
//method body
if(num%2==0)
System.out.println(num+" is even");
else
System.out.println(num+" is odd");
}
```

We have defined the above method named findevenodd(). It has a parameter **num** of type int. The method does not return any value that's why we have used void. The method body contains the steps to check the number is even or ⇧ SCROLL TO TOP even, it prints the number **is even**, else prints the number **is odd**.

How to Call or Invoke a User-defined Method

Once we have defined a method, it should be called. The calling of a method in a program is simple. When we call or invoke a user-defined method, the program control transfer to the called method.

```java
import java.util.Scanner;
public class EvenOdd
{
public static void main (String args[])
{
//creating Scanner class object
Scanner scan=new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Enter the number: ");
//reading value from the user
int num=scan.nextInt();
//method calling
findEvenOdd(num);
}
```

In the above code snippet, as soon as the compiler reaches at line **findEvenOdd(num),** the control transfer to the method and gives the output accordingly.

Let's combine both snippets of codes in a single program and execute it.

EvenOdd.java

```java
import java.util.Scanner;
public class EvenOdd
{
public static void main (String args[])
{
//creating Scanner class object
Scanner scan=new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Enter the number: ");
//reading value from user
int num=scan.nextInt();
```

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

```java
findEvenOdd(num);
}
//user defined method
public static void findEvenOdd(int num)
{
//method body
if(num%2==0)
System.out.println(num+" is even");
else
System.out.println(num+" is odd");
}
}
```

Output 1:

```
Enter the number: 12
12 is even
```

Output 2:

```
Enter the number: 99
99 is odd
```

Let's see another program that return a value to the calling method.

In the following program, we have defined a method named **add()** that sum up the two numbers. It has two parameters n1 and n2 of integer type. The values of n1 and n2 correspond to the value of a and b, respectively. Therefore, the method adds the value of a and b and store it in the variable s and returns the sum.

Addition.java

```java
public class Addition
{
public static void main(String[] args)
{
int a = 19;
int b = 5;
//method calling
int c = add(a, b);   //a and b are actual parameters
System.out.println("The sum of a and b is= " + c);
}
//user defined method
public static int add(int n1, int n2)   //n1 and n2 are formal parameters
{
```

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

```
s=n1+n2;
return s; //returning the sum
}
}
```

Output:

```
The sum of a and b is= 24
```

Static Method

A method that has static keyword is known as static method. In other words, a method that belongs to a class rather than an instance of a class is known as a static method. We can also create a static method by using the keyword **static** before the method name.

The main advantage of a static method is that we can call it without creating an object. It can access static data members and also change the value of it. It is used to create an instance method. It is invoked by using the class name. The best example of a static method is the **main()** method.

Example of static method

Display.java

```java
public class Display
{
public static void main(String[] args)
{
show();
}
static void show()
{
System.out.println("It is an example of static method.");
}
}
```

Output:

```
It is an example of a static method.
```

Instance Method

The method of the class is known as an **instance method**. It is a **non-static** method defined in the class. Before calling or invoking the instance method, it is necessary to create an object of its class. Let's see an example of an instance method.

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP   **mple.java**

```java
public class InstanceMethodExample
{
public static void main(String [] args)
{
//Creating an object of the class
InstanceMethodExample obj = new InstanceMethodExample();
//invoking instance method
System.out.println("The sum is: "+obj.add(12, 13));
}
int s;
//user-defined method because we have not used static keyword
public int add(int a, int b)
{
s = a+b;
//returning the sum
return s;
}
}
```

Output:

```
The sum is: 25
```

There are two types of instance method:

- **Accessor Method**
- **Mutator Method**

Accessor Method: The method(s) that reads the instance variable(s) is known as the accessor method. We can easily identify it because the method is prefixed with the word **get**. It is also known as **getters**. It returns the value of the private field. It is used to get the value of the private field.

Example

```java
public int getId()
{
return Id;
}
```

Mutator Method: The method(s) read the instance variable(s) and also modify the values. We can easily identify it because the method is prefixed with the word **set**. It is also known as **setters** or **modifiers**. It does not return anything. It accepts a parameter of the same data type that depends on the field. It is used to set the value of the private field.

Example

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

```java
public void setRoll(int roll)
{
this.roll = roll;
}
```

Example of accessor and mutator method

Student.java

```java
public class Student
{
private int roll;
private String name;
public int getRoll()    //accessor method
{
return roll;
}
public void setRoll(int roll) //mutator method
{
this.roll = roll;
}
public String getName()
{
return name;
}
public void setName(String name)
{
this.name = name;
}
public void display()
{
System.out.println("Roll no.: "+roll);
System.out.println("Student name: "+name);
}
}
```

Abstract Method

The method that does not has method body is known as abstract method. In other words, without an implementation is known as abstract method. It always declares in the **abstract class**. It means the class itself must be abstract if it has abstract method. To create an abstract method, we use the keyword **abstract**.

Syntax

```
                 hod_name();
```

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

Example of abstract method

Demo.java

```java
abstract class Demo //abstract class
{
//abstract method declaration
abstract void display();
}
public class MyClass extends Demo
{
//method impelmentation
void display()
{
System.out.println("Abstract method?");
}
public static void main(String args[])
{
//creating object of abstract class
Demo obj = new MyClass();
//invoking abstract method
obj.display();
}
}
```

Output:

```
Abstract method...
```

Factory method

It is a method that returns an object to the class to which it belongs. All static methods are factory methods. For example, **NumberFormat obj = NumberFormat.getNumberInstance();**
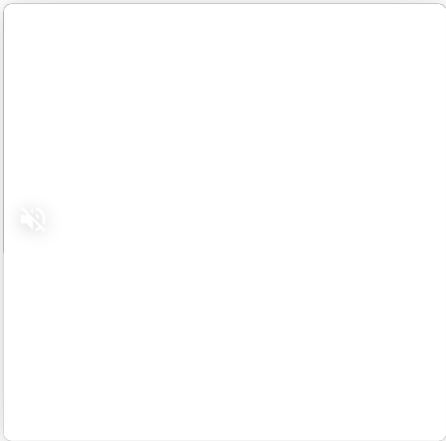
⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

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⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

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⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

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⇧ SCROLL TO TOP

⇧ SCROLL TO TOP