Customizing Existing Classes

Categories Add Methods to Existing Classes
> Avoid Category Method Name Clashes

Class Extensions Extend the Internal Implementation
A class extension bears some similarity to a category, but it can only be added to a class for which you have the source code at compile time

> Use Class Extensions to Hide Private Information

Consider Other Alternatives for Class Customization
> Interact Directly with the Objective-C Runtime

Protocols Define Messaging Contracts
```
@protocol ProtocolName
// list of methods and properties
@end
```

> Protocols Can Have Optional Methods

> Check that Optional Methods Are Implemented at Runtime

> Protocols Inherit from Other Protocols
```
@protocol MyProtocol <NSObject>
...
@end
```
In this example, any object that adopts MyProtocol also effectively adopts all the methods declared in the NSObject protocol.

Conforming to Protocols
> Cocoa and Cocoa Touch Define a Large Number of Protocols

Protocols Are Used for Anonymity