

Identifier :

A name in java program is called identifier. It may be class name, method name, variable name.

Example:

```
class Test
{
    public static void main(String[] args){
    int x=10;
    }
}
```

Diagram illustrating identifier positions in the example code:

- 1 points to `Test`
- 2 points to `main`
- 3 points to `String`
- 4 points to `args`
- 5 points to `x`

Rules to define java identifiers:

Rule 1: The only allowed characters in java identifiers are:

- 1) a to z
- 2) A to Z
- 3) 0 to 9
- 4) _ (underscore)
- 5) \$

Rule 2: If we are using any other character we will get compile time error.

Example:

- 1) total_number-----valid
- 2) Total#-----invalid

Rule 3: identifiers are not allowed to start with digit.

Example:

- 1) ABC123-----valid
- 2) 123ABC-----invalid

Rule 4: java identifiers are case sensitive. java language itself treated as case sensitive language.

Example:

```
class Test{
int number=10;
int Number=20;
int NUMBER=20; we can differentiate with case.
int NuMbEr=30;
}
```

Rule 5: There is no length limit for java identifiers but it is not recommended to take more than 15 lengths.

Rule 6: We can't use reserved words as identifiers.

Example:

```
int if=10; -----invalid
```

Rule 7: All predefined java class names and interface names we use as identifiers.

Example 1:

```
class Test
{
public static void main(String[] args){
int String=10;
System.out.println(String);
}}
Output:
10
```

Example 2:

```
class Test
{
public static void main(String[] args){

int Runnable=10;
System.out.println(Runnable);
}}
Output:
10
```

Even though it is legal to use class names and interface names as identifiers but it is not a good programming practice.

Which of the following are valid java identifiers?

- 1) \$_ (valid)
- 2) Ca\$h (valid)
- 3) Java2share (valid)
- 4) all@hands (invalid)
- 5) 123abc (invalid)
- 6) Total# (invalid)
- 7) Int (valid)
- 8) Integer (valid)
- 9) int (invalid)
- 10) tot123