JSON.simple example – Read and write JSON

By [mkyong](https://www.mkyong.com/author/mkyong/) | August 11, 2011 | Updated : August 29, 2012 | Viewed : 958,621 times +6,642 pv/w

[JSON.simple](http://code.google.com/p/json-simple/), is a simple Java library for JSON processing, read and write JSON data and full compliance with [JSON specification (RFC4627)](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4627.txt).

**Note**  
To convert object to / from JSON, you should consider [Jackson](http://jackson.codehaus.org/) or [Gson](http://sites.google.com/site/gson/Home).

In this tutorial, we show you how to use **JSON.simple** to read and write JSON data from / to a file.

1. JSON.simple Dependency

**JSON.simple** is available at Maven central repository, just declares following dependency in your pom.xml file.

<dependency>

<groupId>com.googlecode.json-simple</groupId>

<artifactId>json-simple</artifactId>

<version>1.1</version>

</dependency>

2. Write JSON to file

In below example, it write JSON data via JSONObject and JSONArray, and save it into a file named “**test.json**“.

import java.io.FileWriter;

import java.io.IOException;

import org.json.simple.JSONArray;

import org.json.simple.JSONObject;

public class JsonSimpleExample {

public static void main(String[] args) {

JSONObject obj = new JSONObject();

obj.put("name", "mkyong.com");

obj.put("age", new Integer(100));

JSONArray list = new JSONArray();

list.add("msg 1");

list.add("msg 2");

list.add("msg 3");

obj.put("messages", list);

try {

FileWriter file = new FileWriter("c:\\test.json");

file.write(obj.toJSONString());

file.flush();

file.close();

} catch (IOException e) {

e.printStackTrace();

}

System.out.print(obj);

}

}

**Output** – See content of file named “**test.json**“.

{

"age":100,

"name":"mkyong.com",

"messages":["msg 1","msg 2","msg 3"]

}

3. Read JSON from file

Use JSONParser to read above generated JSON file “**test.json**“, and display each of the values.

import java.io.FileNotFoundException;

import java.io.FileReader;

import java.io.IOException;

import java.util.Iterator;

import org.json.simple.JSONArray;

import org.json.simple.JSONObject;

import org.json.simple.parser.JSONParser;

import org.json.simple.parser.ParseException;

public class JsonSimpleExample {

public static void main(String[] args) {

JSONParser parser = new JSONParser();

try {

Object obj = parser.parse(new FileReader("c:\\test.json"));

JSONObject jsonObject = (JSONObject) obj;

String name = (String) jsonObject.get("name");

System.out.println(name);

long age = (Long) jsonObject.get("age");

System.out.println(age);

// loop array

JSONArray msg = (JSONArray) jsonObject.get("messages");

Iterator<String> iterator = msg.iterator();

while (iterator.hasNext()) {

System.out.println(iterator.next());

}

} catch (FileNotFoundException e) {

e.printStackTrace();

} catch (IOException e) {

e.printStackTrace();

} catch (ParseException e) {

e.printStackTrace();

}

}

}

*Output*

mkyong.com

100

msg 1

msg 2

msg 3