How Do We Really Name Java Variables
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Well, I have four cats and what shall I identify them as in my Java program. I can call them cats, or even fourCats. Java is a human-readable code which reflects also, on the variables that are used to identify an object.

Variables are identifications for the Data types that store values. There are multiple rules that apply when you create a meaningful variable name. Today we are focusing on understanding the concept on how to write a variable name that is meaningful, efficient, and in the right format. Remember, this document will not go into all the details relating to variables. It's only purpose is to teach you how to name a regular variable.

Before we begin let's review the rules that apply when making a variables name : Variables start with a simple letter. To have a $ or _ as the first character is okay. Variables can have letters, digits, underscore, & dollar signs. Cannot use Java reserved keywords. (Sierra, Bates, 2005, p.85).

Let's check out an Example :

Int variableName = value ;
Int num= 4;

We see that we have declaration type Int, which is an Integer Data Type that has a variable called num, that holds the value four. Alright, I was trying to make a variable called number. It is easy and simple. But, I modify it to num as it is much shorter and still is a very definitive variable name.

Let's do some Java coding!

```
public Class Number {

Int num = 4 ;

protected Int totalWithTax (  )
{
int total;
total = (num * .150) + num;
return num;
}
```

}

Let's see if you can answer this exercise?
If you want to make a shopping list from a list of items, what variable name can you give it?
_____

You can name it shoppingList.

It is easy to define variable names with an understanding of how we read the code. Make sure it is understandable and proper with the right rules applied for your reader to review your code. So, keep practicing variableNames.

Reference

Sierra, Kathy, and Bert Bates. *Head First Java*, Helion, 2005, pp. 85–85.