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1.7: A Word about Code Format

As trivial as it may seem, the physical layout of your code on a printed page can help enormously with code maintenance. We'll talk about conventions for formatting your code during the course, but right now I want to point out a few features of the program above.

First of all, indentation and placement of braces is consistent. It is more important that you pick a style and stick to it than it is that you use any one particular style. I favor a style in which matching opening and closing braces appear vertically in line with one another, and enclosed code is indented by two spaces relative to the braces. Pick your own preferences, but be consistent!

Second, the first lines of class and method declarations in my code contain all the qualifiers (public static void), while the actual name of the class or method is on the following line. This places the important names at the left margin, where they are more easily found.

Third, virtually all Java programmers use names starting with lower case letters for variables and functions, while classes get uppercased names, with any internal word boundaries also marked with uppercase letters. For example, `thisIsAVariableName` and `ThisIsAClassName`. The Java APIs themselves use this convention.