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2.3: Functions

Every function (for Visual Basic programmers: in Java, no distinction is made between functions and subroutines; the generic term "function" is used to refer to both. Actually, you usually say "method" instead, but we're going to call them functions for now!). As I was saying, every function in Java accepts a definite number of arguments of specific, definite types, and returns a value also of some specific type (one possible return type is "void", which means "returns no value"). As we pointed out above, all functions must be qualified by calling them through a variable of an appropriate type:

```
System.out.println("Hello");
```

means to call the `println()` function attached to the `System.out` *object*. These properties of functions are part of Java's strong type system: functions have very definite properties, just like variables.

Your programs can easily define their own functions. Just put them inside the class brackets, but outside the `main()` function. Consult the text for details.