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## 4.7: Finishing Touches

Now that we've provided methods to change x and y, we should probably provide public methods to read them, and make x and y private as well. As a general rule, I make all variables private unless there is a definite reason to do otherwise. One exception to this rule is final variables, which, since they cannot be changed, can safely be exposed as public. public final variables can still cause maintenance problems, however, and it's still often better style to use private variables and accessor methods.

There are other levels of access control besides public and private; see below for more details.