Java always passes arguments by value NOT by reference.

A correct statement would be *Object references(pointers) are passed by value*.

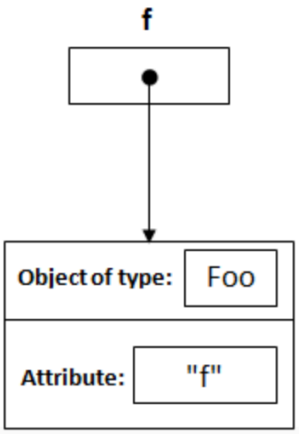
Let me explain this through an example:

```
public class Main{
     public static void main(String[] args){
          Foo f = new Foo("f");
          changeReference(f); // It won't change the reference!
          modifyReference(f); // It will modify the object that the reference variable "f" r
     }
     public static void changeReference(Foo a){
          Foo b = new Foo("b");
          a = b;
     }
     public static void modifyReference(Foo c){
          c.setAttribute("c");
     }
}
```

I will explain this in steps:

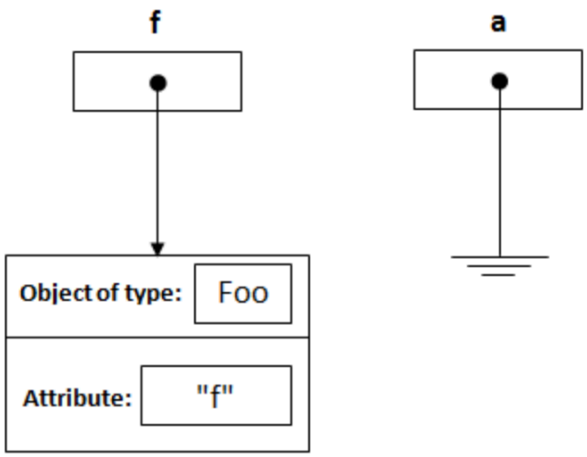
1. Declaring a reference named `f` of type `Foo` and assign it to a new object of type `Foo` with an attribute `"f"`.

```
Foo f = new Foo("f");
```



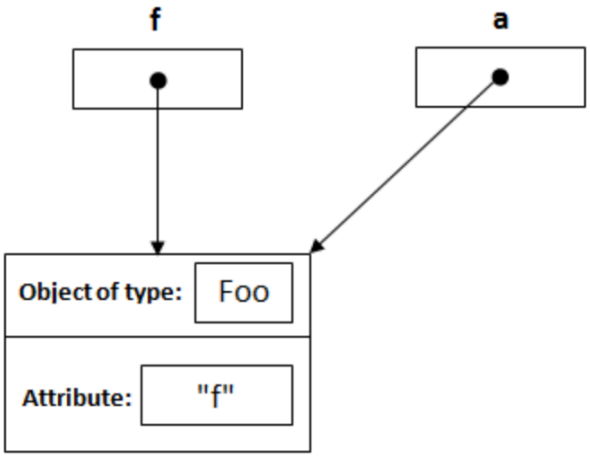
2. From the method side, a reference of type `Foo` with a name `a` is declared and it's initially assigned to `null`.

```
public static void changeReference(Foo a)
```



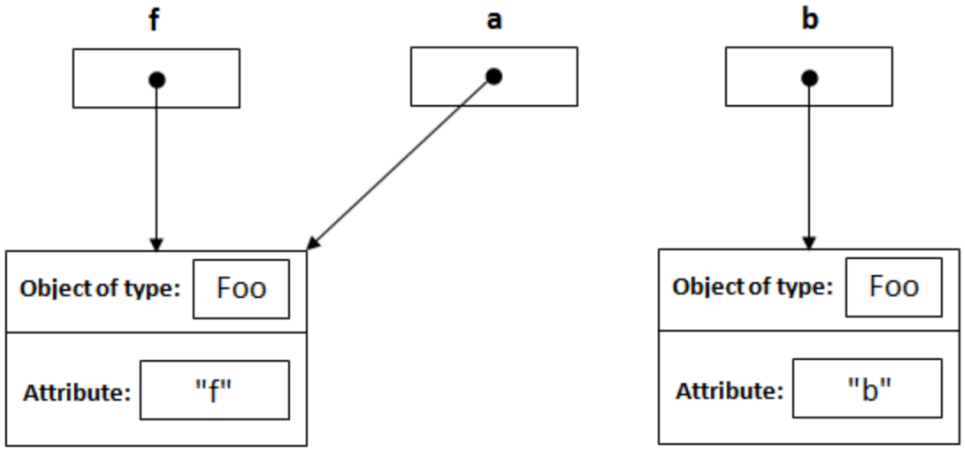
3. As you call the method `changeReference`, the reference `a` will be assigned to the object which is passed as an argument.

```
changeReference(f);
```

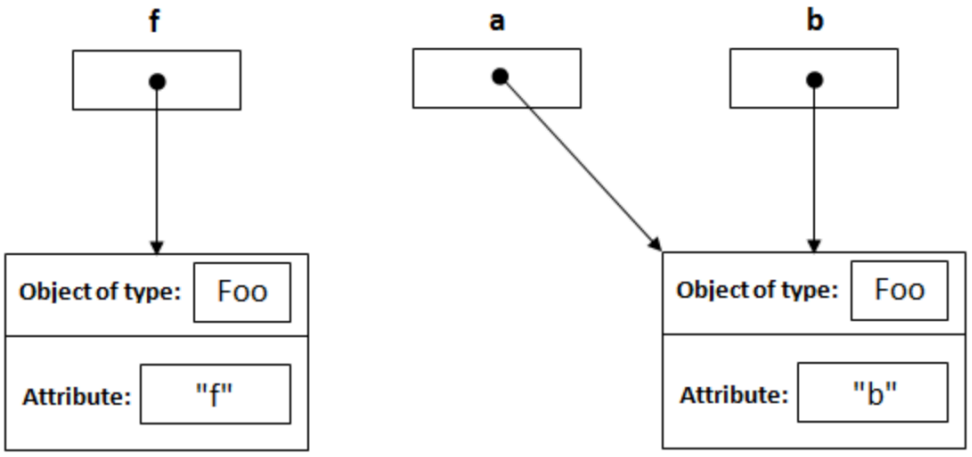


4. Declaring a reference named `b` of type `Foo` and assign it to a new object of type `Foo` with an attribute `"b"`.

```
Foo b = new Foo("b");
```



5. `a = b` is re-assigning the reference `a` NOT `f` to the object whose its attribute is `"b"`.



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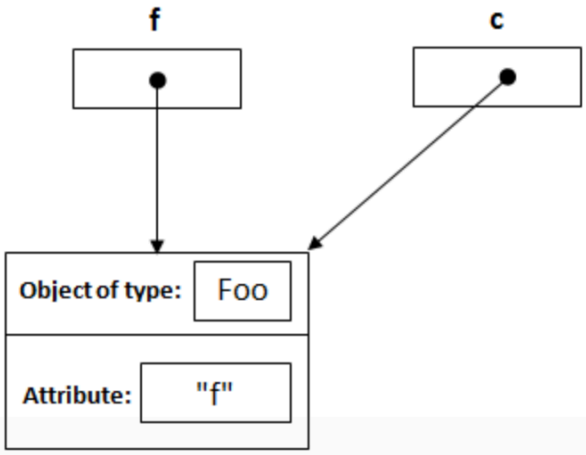
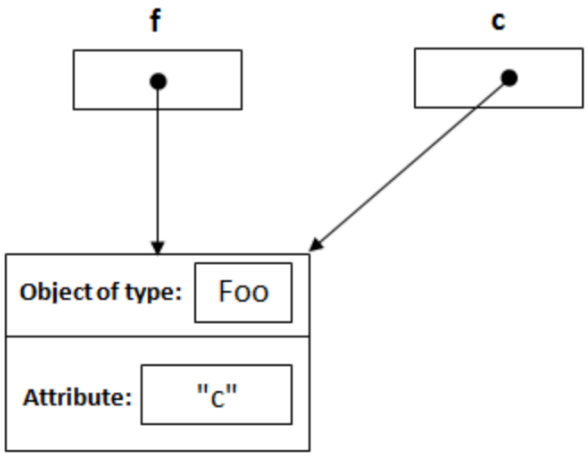
6. As you call `modifyReference(Foo c)` method, a reference `c` is created and assigned to the object with attribute `"f"`.



7. `c.setAttribute("c");` will change the attribute of the object that reference `c` points to it, and it's same object that reference `f` points to it.



I hope you understand now how passing objects as arguments works in Java :)