CS4131 Mobile Application Development



Name:	() Date:

Chapter 2: Android Layouts, Views and View Groups

2.1 Introduction to Layouts, View Groups and Views

Within an Android app Activity, a layout defines the structure for a user interface within the same Activity. All elements in the layout are built using a *hierarchy of View and ViewGroup objects*. A **View object is a visual object containing elements which the user can see and interact with**, whereas a **ViewGroup object is a container that defines the layout structure** for multiple View or other ViewGroup objects, as you can see below:

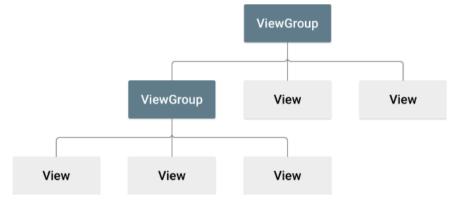


Figure 1: Android View Hierarchy

Hence, you can now define a hierarchy of ViewGroups and Views as a graph-like structure, or in the form of a component tree which you may see in Android Studio when editing your XML files in Design mode:

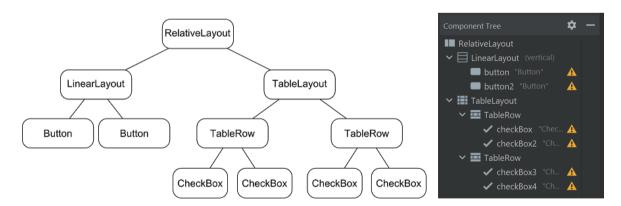


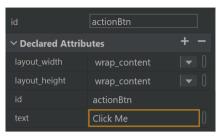
Figure 2: Android View Hierarchy / Android Component Tree Example

The subsequent sections will cover the different Android Layouts available and the more commonly used UI components (Views, Buttons, Widgets, etc) in Android apps.

2.2 View / ViewGroup Attributes in XML / Design Layout

Similar to JavaFX, each and every View or ViewGroup will have attributes which you may define to either edit some of its properties (like the textSize, layout attributes, etc). To edit the attributes,

you will have to click on the individual View or View Group either in the component tree or the design layout window. When you insert a new View or ViewGroup, there will be a few standard attributes which you will immediately see under "Declared Attributes". There are other many other attributes you can actually "declare" and initialize under the "All Attributes" section, with the more common ones in the "Common Attributes" section, for each and every View and ViewGroup inserted.



Some of the more important attributes you will have to take note of:

Attribute	Description
id	The ID of the View / ViewGroup object. This same ID will also be the
	variable name of the View / ViewGroup object in your code.
layout_width	This attribute controls the width of the View / ViewGroup object.
	There are 3 options, either:
	wrap_content:
	match_parent:
	 Manual input of the pixels, which is in the units dp / sp (density
	pixels / scalable pixels), for example, 13sp.
	 Both the <i>sp</i> and <i>dp</i> is a virtual unit based on the physical density of the given screen. Hence, this means that on a higher resolution screen with a higher dpi (dots per inch), more pixels can be represented per 1dp or 1sp. The <i>sp</i> measure is special in a way that it is adjustable depending on the user preference, for example, those who's eyesight is not very good may opt for font sizes in their phones to be bigger. The <i>dp</i> measure is mainly for UI layout sizes while the sp measure is mainly for text-based UI components
	The understanding of the dp/sp measure is important not just in the aspect of UI component sizing, but also in understanding why higher resolution screens are more sensitive to touch, and why developers use the same bitmap graphics of different resolutions in their resources (and hence why developers will prefer to use vector graphics instead.
	You may want to read up on the following resource for a better understanding: https://developer.android.com/training/multiscreen/screendensities

layout_height	This attribute controls the height of the View / ViewGroup object.
	The explanation for the options and the dp/sp measure will be the same as the above.
text	Some UI components require a text element such that the user using the UI component knows exactly what the components does intuitively, and it is good for such text to be informative yet concise which enhances the user's experience.
	Note that it is recommended that such text is drawn from the string.xml file in the res folder through typing @string/ in the field.

Paddings

Paddings provide some whitespace between different Views or ViewGroups which will be vital in improving the user experience such that each and every UI component appears to be distinct from each other. You can set the padding by using the padding attribute:



2.3 Layouts

Android Studio provides the following layouts you may use as containers to store other ViewGroups and Views. Note that some of the Layouts cannot be seen in the Design Palette and will require a manual entry into the XML file, for example, in the below figure, the RelativeLayout cannot be found in the Design Palette, but if you edit the XML file directly to look for the RelativeLayout, you can find it as one of their suggestions:

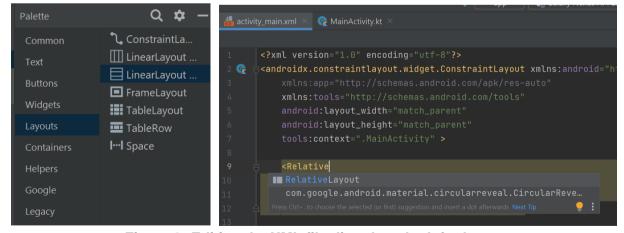
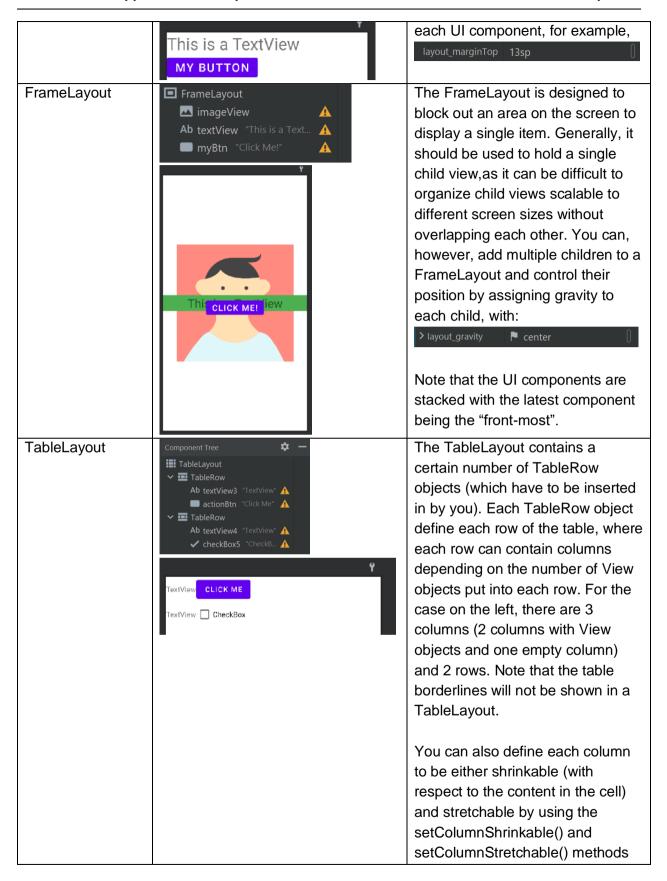


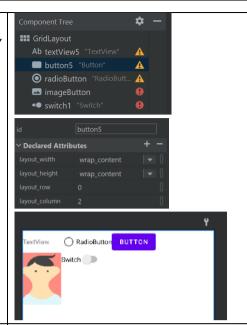
Figure 3: Editing the XML file directly to look for layouts.

The following table shows some of the different layouts available in Android Studio

Layouts	Images from Android Studio	Description
RelativeLayout (Need to manually type into XML)	RelativeLayout Ab textView "This is a Text A myBtn "My Button" MY BUTTON TextView	The RelativeLayout allows you to display UI components relative to each other. If the alignment is not defined, the UI components will be stacked in the order they are place in the hierarchy. To enforce an alignment, you must edit the following attributes: layout_below
		how it can affect the different UI components.
ConstraintLayout	Component Tree ConstraintLayout Ab textView "This is a Text A myBtn "My Button" A This is a TextView MY BUTTON	ConstraintLayout allows for creation of large and complex layouts with a flat-view hierarchy. Hence, in a way it is similar to the RelativeLayout such that you have to define the alignment relationships with the different Views and ViewGroups but it is more intuitive to set in the the relative positions in the Layout Editor of Android Studio and enforce alignment between UI components.
	***************************************	More on the ConstraintLayout will be explored in the next section.
LinearLayout (Vertical / Horizontal)	Component Tree LinearLayout (horizontal) Ab textView myBtn "My Button" This is a TextView BUTTON Component Tree	The LinearLayout will layout the UI components within it either vertically or horizontally depending on the <i>orientation</i> chosen (just need to right-click the LinearLayout in the component tree to change the orientation).
	■ LinearLayout (vertical) Ab textView "This is a Text ■ myBtn "My Button" A	To adjust the spacing between the UI components, you can adjust the respective layout margin fields for



GridLayout
(Need to manually type into XML)



The GridLayout places all the View children in a rectangular grid, where you are able to define the row and column index within the grid, such that grid[0][0] is defined to be on the top-left corner of the layout itself. Note that it is possible for you to define the View children to occupy the same cell or same group of cells. However, there is no guarantee that the View children themselves overlap after the layout operation completes.

CoordinatorLayout (Need to manually type into XML)

The CoordinatorLayout is a super-powered FrameLayout where the main appeal is its ability to coordinate animations and transitions of the Views within it.

The CoordinatorLayout uses a Behaviour object, which represents interactions between 2 or more Views in the same layout, to determine how child View items should be laid out and moved as the user interacts with your app. The main behaviours include *layout-based behaviours* and *scroll-based behaviours*.

The CoordinatorLayout is typically used in scenarios involving the interaction between the Free Action Bar (FAB) and other widgets such as the Snackbar, CardViews, RecyclerView, ScrollViews, Collapsing Toolbar, Appbar, all of which will be explored in the next chapter.

2.4 More on ConstraintLayout

The ConstraintLayout is probably one of the more interesting and commonly used layouts as the API and the Layout Editor on Android Studio were specifically built for each other, which will hence allow the building of the layout with ConstraintLayout entirely by dragging-and-dropping instead of editing the XML.

To define a view's position in ConstraintLayout, you must add at least one horizontal and one vertical constraint for the view. Each constraint represents a connection or alignment to another view, the parent layout, or an invisible guideline. Each constraint defines the view's position along either the vertical or horizontal axis.

When you drop a view into the Layout Editor, it stays where you leave it even if it has no constraints. However, this is only to make editing easier; if a view has no constraints when you run your layout on a device, it is drawn at position (0,0) (the top-left corner).

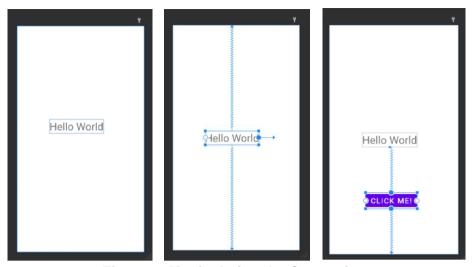


Figure 4: Manipulating the Constraints

In Figure 4, when the TextView is initially dragged into the Layout Editor, no **constraints** (denoted by the "springs" you see above) are inserted. To manipulate the constraints manually, you can click and drag the circular nodes on each view to either the edges of the layout they are confined within OR to other Views as you see on the rightmost diagram of Figure 4 where the Button is constrainted to the TextView.

If you wish to allow Android Studio, you can enable *Inference Mode*, denoted by the following button circled in the diagram on the right (Infer Constraints). Inference Mode



uses a heuristic approach to automatically implement constraint connections after widgets have already been added to the layout.

The ConstraintLayout attributes have special layout attributes on top of the standard few attributes any Layout will have. The circular nodes on the Constraint Widget defines the respective x and y positions as a percentage of the View within coordinates (0, 0) of the layout, which is defined to be on the top-left corner. What this means is that if both are set to 50, the View will be set to be exactly in the middle of the ConstraintLayout. You can also set a <u>bias</u> within the ConstraintLayout by setting the numbers (in the drop-down lists) on the four edges of the Constraint Widget, as seen below:

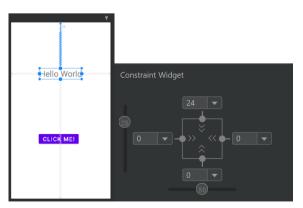
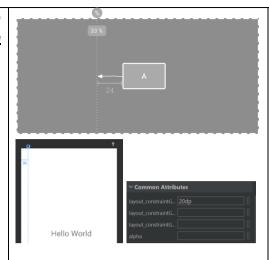


Figure 5: Using the Constraint Widget to set Position of View and Bias

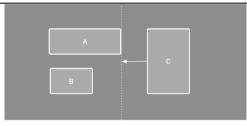
Manipulating the constraints in the Views allows you to achieve different types of layout behaviour:

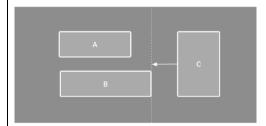
Layout	Diagram	achieve different types of layout behaviour: Description
Positions		
Parent Position	A	Constrain the side of a view to the corresponding edge of the layout. In the diagram, the left side of the view is connected to the left edge of the parent layout. You can define the distance from the edge with margin.
Order Position	A B	Define the order of appearance for two Views (vertically or horizontally). In the diagram, B is constrained to always be right of A, and C below A. However, these constraints do not imply alignment, so B can still move up and down.
Alignment	A A B	Align the edge of a View to the same edge of another View. In the diagram, the left side of B is aligned to the left side of A. For central alignment, create a constraint on both sides.
	Left: Horizontal alignment constraint Right: Offset horizontal alignment constraint by 24dp	You can offset the alignment by dragging the view inward from the constraint. In the diagram, B is set with a 24dp offset alignment. The offset is defined by the constrained View's margin.
		You can also select all the views you
		want to align, and then click Align in the toolbar (same toolbar as where you find "Infer Constraints")
Baseline Alignment		Align the text baseline of a View to the text baseline of another View.
	A B	In the diagram, the first line of B is aligned with the text in A.
	ab Show Baseline Sk Clear Constraints of Selection Constrain	To create a baseline constraint, right-click the TextView you want to constrain and then click Show Baseline . Then click on the text baseline and drag the line to another baseline.

Constrain to a **Guideline**

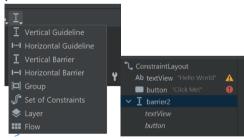


Constrain to a **Barrier**





View C is constrained to a barrier, which moves based on the relative position of itself to both View A and B.





Add guidelines to constrain Views. The guideline will be invisible to app users. You can position the guideline within the layout based on either dp units or percent, relative to the layout's edge.

To create a guideline, click **Guidelines** in the toolbar, and then click either **Add Vertical Guideline** or **Add Horizontal Guideline**. Drag the dotted line to reposition it and click the circle at the edge of the guideline to toggle the measurement mode.

Like a guideline, a barrier is an invisible line that you can constrain Views to, except a barrier does not define its own position. The barrier position moves based on the position of Views contained within it. This is useful when you want to constrain a View to the a set of Views rather than to one specific View.

The diagram shows View C constrained to the right side of a barrier. The barrier is set to the "end" (right side in a left-to-right layout) of both View A and View B. The barrier moves depending on whether the right side of View A or View B is further right.

To create a barrier, follow these steps:

- 1. Click **Guidelines** in the toolbar, and then click **Add Vertical Barrier** or **Add Horizontal Barrier**.
- 2. Select the Views you want inside the barrier and drag them into the barrier component in the **Component Tree**
- 3. Select the barrier and set the barrierDirection attribute

You can also:

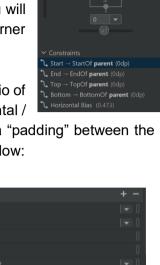
- Constrain Views inside the barrier to the barrier. This way, you can ensure all Views in the barrier align to each other
- Include guidelines inside barrier to ensure a "minimum" position for the barrier.

Working with Aspect Ratios

ConstraintLayout ratios allow one dimension of a Layout to be sized relative to its other dimension. This concept of a ratio between dimensions is known as an <u>aspect ratio</u>. If the ConstraintLayout is **NOT the root layout**, you will notice that the Constraint Widget has a subtle difference on the top left corner of the widget diagram:

Clicking on the top-left corner triangle will allow you to edit the aspect ratio of the ConstraintLayout. Also. You may also notice there is also a "Horizontal /

Vertical Bias" attribute within the layout constraints. This bias defines a "padding" between the root layout and the child ConstraintLayout. You may see an example below:



Lavout

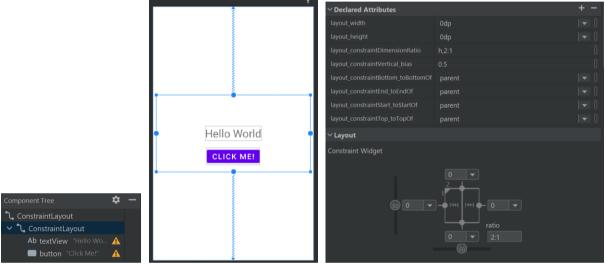
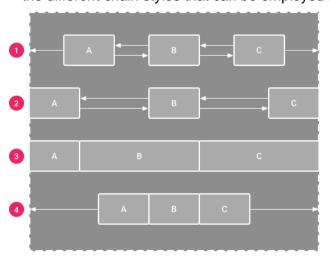


Figure 6: Setting the Aspect Ratio of a Child ConstraintLayout

Chaining Views

A chain is a group of Views that are linked to each other with bi-directional position constraints. The Views within a chain can be distributed either vertically or horizontally. The following shows the different chain styles that can be employed for multiple Views:

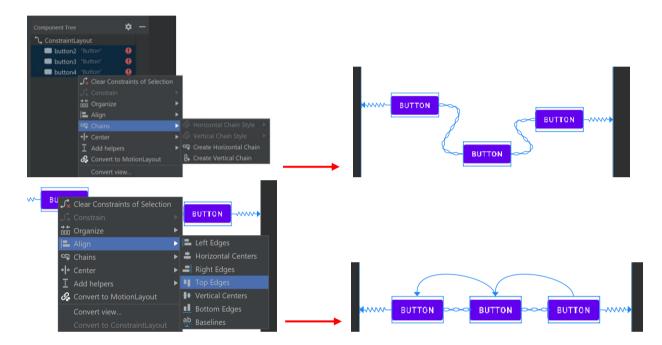


- 1) Spread: The Views are evenly distributed (default)
- **2) Spread Inside**: The first and last view are affixed to the constraints on each end of the chain and the rest are evenly distributed
- **3) Weighted**: You can assign a weight of importance to each view using the attributes: layout_constraintHorizontal_weight layout_constraintVertical_weight

The View with the highest weight gets the most amount of space and Views that have the same weight get the same amount of space.

4) Packed: The Views are packed together (after accounting for margins). You can then also adjust the whole chain's bias (left/right or up/down) by changing the chain's head view bias, where the head view is the left-most View in a horizontal chain or the top-most View in a vertical chain.

To create a chain, you can select all the Views to be included in the chain, right-click, select **Chains**, then select either **Center Horizontally** or **Center Vertically**. Note that chaining does not align the Views, hence, you need to align the Views which are chained after chaining them.



It is strongly encouraged that you also study the changes in the XML code as you explore the editing the layouts in the Layout Editor so that you can see how the individual layout attributes are defined and their respective attribute names.

2.5 Views, Controls and Buttons

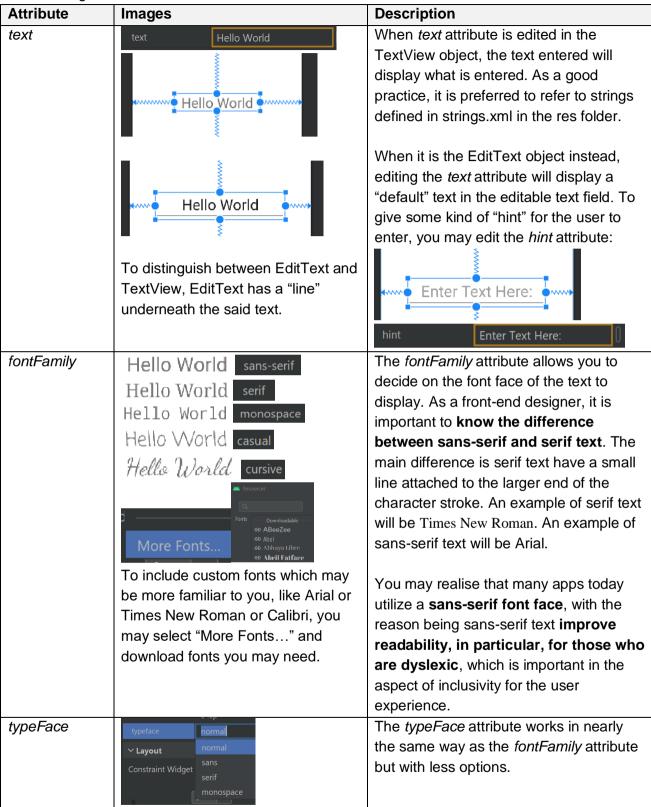
Just like JavaFX you have learnt, Android has a wide variety of UI elements you can use for user interaction with your app. As you may have realized by now, the UI controls as we know in JavaFX are known as Views in Android. Android also classifies the different UI elements as Views, Widgets and Buttons. This set of notes will cover the more commonly used UI elements.

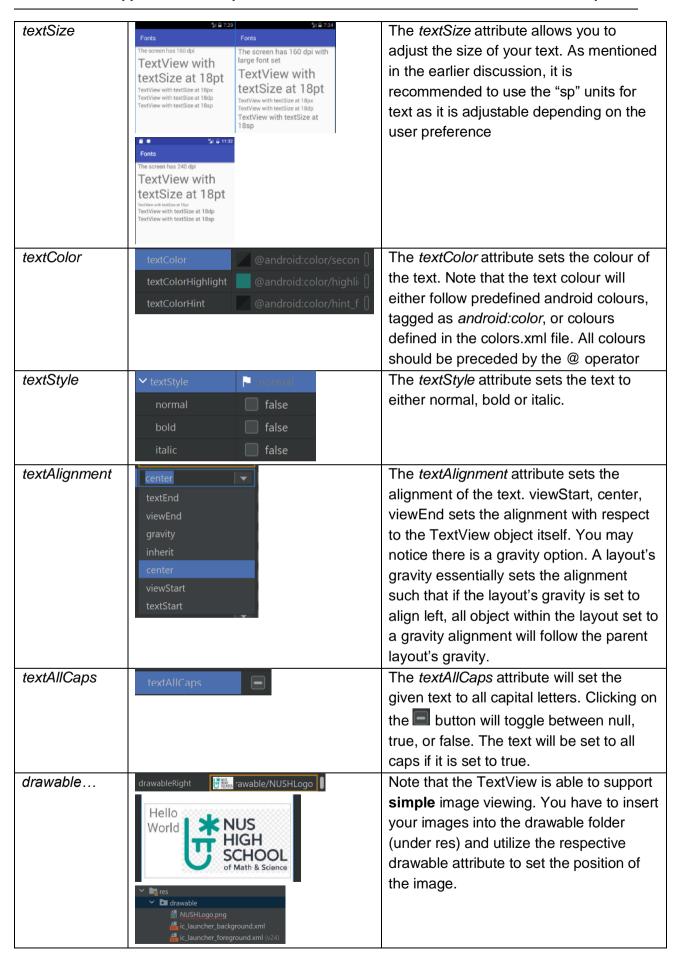
TextView / EditText

The TextView displays text to the user and optionally allows the user to edit text. When it's a TextView, its only purpose is to display text, or images as well. When it is set to **EditText**, **which** is a **sub-class of TextView**, the user can edit text as well.

The TextView allows for displaying of both text (recall that it is recommended to use the *sp* unit of measure for text) and images (which are placed in the *drawable* folder inside the res folder).

The following describes how to work with some common attributes in the TextView / EditText:





The TextView class also has multiple subclasses used for various purposes other than EditText, for example, the Password class, Phone class, Email class, Date class, Number class and AutoCompleteTextView class. You may want to explore the features of each of the above-mentioned classes for their use.

Note that to obtain the String from the EditText (with variable name *textField*), or any other editable TextView object, you will have to use, for example:

```
val inputText = (findViewById<View>(R.id.textField) as EditText).text.toString()
```

To change the text within the TextView (with variable name *resultView*) to some String *str* or some predefined string in the string.xml file,

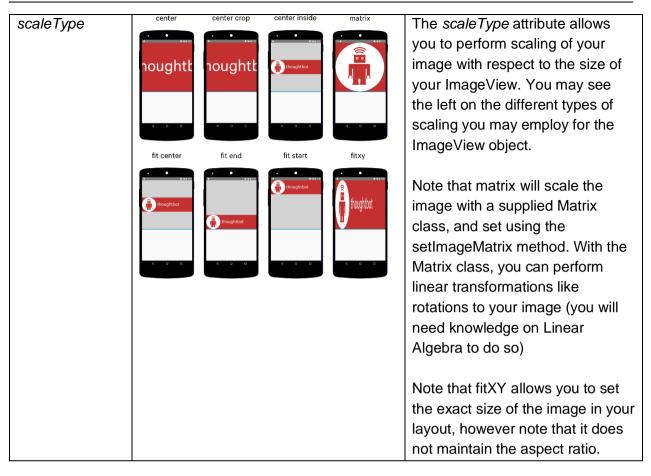
```
resultView.text = str OR
resultView.text = getString(R.string.someResourceString)
```

ImageView

The ImageView displays images to the user. The images are pulled from the *drawable* folder. While TextView can also display images, the ImageView can be used to do some minor image editing like applying tints to an image, image scaling, and also handling Bitmaps.

The following describes how to work with some common attributes in the ImageView:

Attribute	Images	Description
srcCompat	NUS HIGH SCHOOL of Math & Science In the science of Math & Science In the science of Mushlesses o	The <i>srcCompat</i> attribute defines the source of the image. Note that all raw images need to be placed in the drawable folder (under res).
background	background #3F51B5 Custom Custom	The background attribute defines any background colour you may want to define in the whitespaces of your ImageView. You do not need to play with the hexadecimal codes to get the colour you need. Double clicking on the field will allow you to enter the colour palette to visualize and select your colours. Note that you can easily select predefined colours from your colors.xml file in your res folder by selecting the "Resources" tab.



As there are many different screen sizes, resolutions and densities, many developers will place <u>bitmap images</u> of multiple resolutions for consistent good graphical qualities regardless of the pixel density of each device. If such is not done, what will happen is that Android will scale your image such that it occupies the same visible space on each screen, resulting in blurring.

Each density size corresponds to a different density qualifier as seen in the table below:

Density	Description	Scale Factor	Pixels
Qualifier			
Idpi	low-density (Idpi) screens (~120dpi)	0.75x	1dp = 0.75px
mdpi	medium-density (mdpi) screens (~160dpi).	1.0x	1dp = 1px
	(This is the baseline density)		
hdpi	high-density (hdpi) screens (~240dpi)	1.5x	1dp = 1.5px
xhdpi	extra-high-density (xhdpi) screens (~320dpi)	2.0x	1dp = 2px
xxhdpi	extra-extra-high-density (xxhdpi) screens (~480dpi)	3.0x	1dp = 3px
xxxhdpi	extra-extra-extra-high-density (xxxhdpi) uses	4.0x	1dp = 4px
	(~640dpi)		
nodpi	All densities. These are density-independent	NIL	NIL
	resources. The system does not scale resources		
	tagged with this qualifier, regardless of the current		
	screen's density		
tvdpi	Somewhere between <i>mdpi</i> and <i>hdpi</i> (~213dpi).	1.33x	1dp = 1.33px
	This is not considered a "primary" density group. It		

is mostly intended for televisions and most apps	
shouldn't need it—providing mdpi and hdpi	
resources is sufficient for most apps	

To create alternative bitmap drawables for different densities, you should follow the **3:4:6:8:12:16** scaling ratio between the six primary densities. For example, if you have a bitmap drawable that's 100x100 pixels for *mdpi*, on hdpi, you should have the same bitmap drawable of 150x150 pixels. A relative comparison is shown below:



Figure 7: Relative sizes for bitmaps at different density sizes

The generated image files should then be placed in the appropriate subdirectory under res folder and the system will pick the correct one automatically based on the pixel density of the device your app is running on. For example, if you have copies of an image "awesomeimage.png" set for multiple densities, you will have to create multiple drawable folders, each containing a reference to the density qualifiers. You will then have to put the **image of the same name** into each of the folders. Now, Android Studio has a category of "awesomeimage.png" with the different density qualifiers and you may just reference awesomeimage.png, and the system will automatically set the corresponding image to the app's screen size in the artifact.



Figure 8: Setting Bitmaps of Different Qualifiers in Android Studio

An alternative which most app designers go for instead of having multiple density-specific versions of an image is to create a <u>vector graphic</u>. Vector graphics create an image using XML to define paths and colors, instead of using pixel bitmaps. As such, vector graphics can scale to any size without scaling artifacts, though they are usually best for illustrations such as icons, not photographs.

Android uses their own "vector drawable" format for vector graphics instead of the more well known SVG or PSD formats. To perform the conversion from your existing, you will have to use the **Vector Asset Studio** within Android Studio. You may find out more in the link below: https://developer.android.com/studio/write/vector-asset-studio

Button / ImageButton

The Button class is a subclass of the TextView. Other than the attributes inherited from TextView, the Button class has some other attributes like the *style*, *stateListAnimator* and *onClick*. Only the *onClick* attribute will be emphasized upon in the next section on Android Event Listeners while you explore the other attributes on your own.



Note that:

- ImageButton is a sub-class of the ImageView and will have both the features inherited from ImageView as well as Button's own unique attributes as mentioned above.
- Button / ImageButton objects follow the colour scheme specified in the values/themes xml
 files within the res folder, meaning that changing the background or text colour attributes
 will NOT affect how they look, and you will have to edit the themes.xml files directly.

2.6 Android Event Listeners and Framework

Events in Android can take a variety of different forms but are usually generated in response to an external action. The most common form of events, particularly for smart devices (handphones, tablets, etc), involve some form of interaction with the touch screen. Such events fall into the category of input events.

The Android framework maintains an event queue into which events are placed as they occur. Events are then removed from the stack on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis. In the case of an input event such as a touch on the screen, the event is passed to the View positioned at the location on the screen where the touch took place. A range of information (depending on the event type) about the nature of the event, such as the coordinates of the point of contact between the user's fingertip and the screen are also passed.

To handle the event that it has been passed, the View object must have in place an event listener. The Android View class contains a range of event listener interfaces, each of which contains an abstract declaration for a callback method. To respond to an event of a particular type, a view must register the appropriate event listener and implementing the corresponding callback. The event listeners available in the Android Framework and the associated callback method are in the table below:

Listener	Description
onClick	Called when the user either touches the item (when in touch mode),
	or focuses upon the item with the navigation-keys or trackball and
	presses the suitable "enter" key or presses down on the trackball.
onLongClick	Called when the user either touches and holds the item (when in
	touch mode), or focuses upon the item with the navigation-keys or
	trackball and presses and holds the suitable "enter" key or presses
	and holds down on the trackball (for one second).
onTouch	Called when the user performs an action qualified as a touch event,
	including a press, a release, or any movement gesture on the screen
	(within the bounds of the item).

onCreateContextMenu	Called when a Context Menu is being built (as the result of a
	sustained "long click"). See the discussion on context menus in the
	Menus developer guide.
onFocusChange	Detects when focus moves from the current view as the result of
	interaction with a track-ball or navigation key.
onKey	Called when the user is focused on the item and presses or releases
	a hardware key on the device.

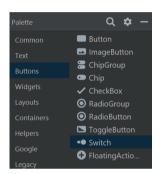
Note that there are many more listeners available in the View class and is not limited to what is presented. The next section will cover examples which primarily cover two key elements:

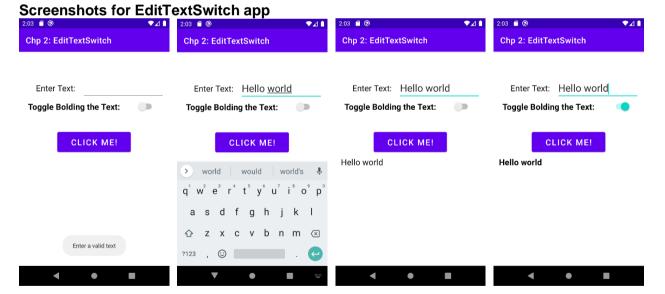
- The other Views available for use in your apps
- How to code the functionalities through associated methods or event listeners

2.7 Example Apps of Views / Widgets / Features in Android

Example 1: EditTextSwitch

A switch is a two-state toggle widget that can select between two options. In the following app, after the user enters the text in the EditText and clicks on the Button, the switch is used to toggle between bolding or un-bolding the text output below the Button. The Switch can be found under the Buttons section of the palette.





strings.xml

MainActivity.kt

```
import android.content.Context
2
      import android.graphics.Typeface
3
      import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
4
     import android.os.Bundle
5
      import android.view.MotionEvent
6
      import android.view.View
7
      import android.view.inputmethod.InputMethodManager
8
      import android.widget.EditText
9
      import android.widget.Switch
10
     import android.widget.TextView
11
     import android.widget.Toast
12
13
     class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
          override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
14
15
              super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
16
              setContentView(R.layout.activity main)
17
              val dispText : TextView = findViewById(R.id.dispTextView)
18
              val sw : Switch = findViewById(R.id.boldSwitch)
19
              sw.setOnCheckedChangeListener { view, isChecked ->
20
                  if (isChecked) {
21
                      dispText.setTypeface(null, Typeface.BOLD)
22
                  } else {
23
                      dispText.setTypeface(null, Typeface.NORMAL)
2.4
25
26
2.7
28
          // The method will force the touch keyboard to hide when user touches anywhere on screen
29
          override fun onTouchEvent(event: MotionEvent?): Boolean {
30
              val imm = getSystemService(Context.INPUT METHOD SERVICE) as InputMethodManager
31
              if(imm.isAcceptingText) imm.hideSoftInputFromWindow(currentFocus!!.windowToken, 0)
32
              return true
33
34
          fun clickBtn(view: View) {
35
             val inputText = (findViewById<View>(R.id.editText) as EditText).text.toString()
36
37
              val dispText : TextView = findViewById(R.id.dispTextView)
38
              if (inputText == "")
39
                  Toast.makeText(this, "Enter a valid text", Toast.LENGTH LONG).show()
40
              else {
41
                  dispText.text = inputText
                  Toast.makeText(this, "Text Displayed!", Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show()
42
                  val imm = getSystemService(Context.INPUT METHOD SERVICE) as InputMethodManager
43
44
                  imm.hideSoftInputFromWindow(currentFocus!!.windowToken, 0)
45
46
47
```

Explanation:

	-
Lines 18 to 25	The code implements a OnCheckedChangeListener on the switch to listen
	for any changes on the switch. Note that a <i>lambda expression</i> (similar to
	what you learnt in OOP2) is used to code the listener's functionalities, such
	that view and isChecked, of type View and Boolean respectively, are
	parameters for the overridden method OnCheckedChangeListener. The
	listener code sets the respective typeface (bold or normal) in accordance to
	the switch's state.
Lines 28 to 33	This code forces the keyboard (if it is currently on the screen), to disappear
	when the user taps anywhere on the screen.

Lines 35 to 46

Another way to add a View functionality is to link a method to its on... attribute. For this case, the method clickBtn is linked to the Button's onClick attribute, as you see in the XML file below, or if you are on design mode, you will have

to set the following: onclick clicksto . If the inputText retrieved from the EditText is empty, a Toast (a message displayed at the bottom in the first screenshot) will reflect that the message is invalid, otherwise, output the inputText in the TextView below the button.

Note certain differences between Kotlin and Java. Similar to Python, you can now compare strings simply with an "==" instead of an equalsTo() method. Also, in line 36 and 41, in general, if the object has both an accessor and mutator method, both can be accessed through just its associated attribute. For example, in line 41, instead of dispText.setText(inputText), you can simply write dispText.text = inputText.

In line 36, notice how object explicit type casting is done with the "as" keyword to cast a View object to its descendent, the EditText.

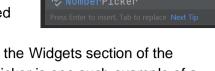
activity_main.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout</pre>
xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
   xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
   \verb|xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"|\\
   android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout height="match parent"
    tools:context=".MainActivity">
    <Button
       android:id="@+id/button"
        android:layout width="176dp"
        android:layout_height="60dp"
        android:layout_marginStart="8dp"
        android:layout_marginEnd="8dp"
        android:layout weight="1"
        android:onClick="clickBtn"
        android:text="@string/btnText"
        android:textSize="20sp"
        app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.497"
        app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.412" />
    <TextView
       android:id="@+id/textView2"
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:layout marginStart="8dp"
        android:text="@string/enterText"
        android:textColor="@color/black"
        android:textSize="20sp"
        app:layout constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.127"
```

```
app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.15" />
   <EditText
       android:id="@+id/editText"
       android:layout_width="197dp"
       android:layout_height="48dp"
       android:layout marginStart="16dp"
       android:layout_weight="1"
       android:textSize="24sp"
       app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="@+id/textView2"
       app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.693"
       app:layout constraintLeft toLeftOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintRight toRightOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintStart toEndOf="@+id/textView2"
       app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="@+id/textView2"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.368" />
   <Switch
       android:id="@+id/boldSwitch"
       android:layout width="307dp"
       android:layout_height="49dp"
       android:layout_marginStart="8dp"
       android:layout_marginEnd="8dp"
       android:layout_marginBottom="24dp"
       android:text="@string/switchText"
       android:textSize="20sp"
       android:textStyle="bold"
       app:layout constraintBottom toTopOf="@+id/button"
       app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.365"
       app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.941" />
    <TextView
       android:id="@+id/dispTextView"
       android:layout_width="335dp"
       android:layout_height="215dp"
       android:layout_marginStart="8dp"
       android:layout_marginEnd="8dp'
       android:textColor="@color/black"
       android:textSize="20sp"
       app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.56"
       app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout_constraintTop_toBottomOf="@+id/button"
       app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.078" />
</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```

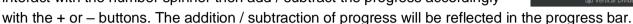
Example 2: NumberPickerProgressBar

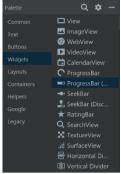
This app introduces another two commonly used widgets, which are the NumberPicker and the



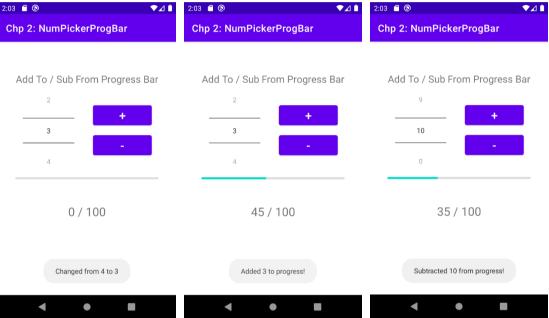
<Number

ProgressBar. The ProgressBar can be found in the Widgets section of the Palette in Design mode, whereas the NumberPicker is one such example of a widget which is NOT readily available in the Palette and needs to be retrieved through manually editing the XML code itself. This app will allow the user to interact with the number spinner then add / subtract the progress accordingly





Screenshots for NumberPickerProgressBar app



strings.xml

```
<resources>
     <string name="app_name">Chp 2: NumPickerProgBar</string>
     <string name="textView">Add To / Sub From Progress Bar</string>
     <string name="add">+</string>
     <string name="sub">-</string>
     </resources>
```

MainActivity.kt

```
import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
2
     import android.os.Bundle
3
     import android.view.View
4
     import android.widget.NumberPicker
5
     import android.widget.ProgressBar
6
     import android.widget.TextView
7
     import android.widget.Toast
8
9
     class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
10
         private var progValue : Int = 0
11
12
          override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
13
              super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
14
              setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
```

```
val picker : NumberPicker = findViewById(R.id.numberPicker)
15
              picker.maxValue = 10
16
17
              picker.minValue = 0
18
              picker.wrapSelectorWheel = true
19
              picker.setOnValueChangedListener{    , oldVal, newVal ->
20
                  val toastText = "Changed from $oldVal to $newVal"
2.1
                  Toast.makeText(this@MainActivity, toastText, Toast.LENGTH SHORT).show()
22
23
24
          fun addSubVal(view : View) {
25
              val pickerNum = (findViewById<NumberPicker>(R.id.numberPicker)).value
26
              val progressBar: ProgressBar = findViewById(R.id.progressBar)
27
              val dispProg : TextView = findViewById(R.id.progressScore)
2.8
              val toastText: String
29
              if (view.id == R.id.addBtn && (progValue + pickerNum) <= 100) {
30
                  progValue += pickerNum
31
                  progressBar.progress = progValue
32
                 dispProg.text = "$progValue / 100"
33
                  toastText = "Added $pickerNum to progress!"
34
              } else if (view.id == R.id.subBtn && (progValue - pickerNum) >= 0) {
35
                 progValue -= pickerNum
36
                 progressBar.progress = progValue
37
                 dispProg.text = "$progValue / 100"
38
                 toastText = "Subtracted $pickerNum from progress!"
39
              } else {
40
                 toastText = "Invalid add / subtract done"
41
42
              Toast.makeText(this@MainActivity, toastText, Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show()
43
44
```

Explanation:

Lines 15 to 22	After the picker is initialized, you will have to set the various attributes of the picker itself, then set a OnValueChangedListener such that a Toast will be output to reflect the numerical changes in the spinner.
	Note on line 19, in Kotlin, it is possible for you to substitute any unused
	parameters in the <i>lambda expression</i> with an underscore.
Lines 25 to 43	Both + and – buttons share the same addSubVal method and you are able to detect specifically which View it is by checking the view's id property (note the view is the parameter passed into the method containing information about the View object calling the method).
	Note on lines 32, 33, 37 and 38, how it is possible in Kotlin to include variables into strings instead of doing endless concatenations in Java. We use the \$ symbol to signify that it is a variable and if the variable is an attribute / method call, we can instead use \${} and put the variable into the curly braces.

activity_main.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout
xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    tools:context=".MainActivity">
```

```
<TextView
   android:id="@+id/textView"
   android:layout width="wrap content"
   android:layout height="wrap content"
   android:layout marginStart="8dp"
   android:layout_marginTop="16dp"
   android:layout_marginEnd="8dp"
   android:text="@string/textView"
   android:textSize="20sp"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.504"
   app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.097" />
<NumberPicker
   android:id="@+id/numberPicker"
   android:layout width="104dp"
   android:layout height="187dp"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintHorizontal_bias="0.198"
   app:layout constraintLeft toLeftOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintRight toRightOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintVertical bias="0.264" />
<LinearLayout
   android:layout width="143dp"
   android:layout height="188dp"
   android:gravity="center horizontal|center vertical"
   android:orientation="vertical"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.407"
   app:layout constraintStart toEndOf="@+id/numberPicker"
   app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.263">
   <Button
       android:id="@+id/addBtn"
       android:layout width="119dp"
       android:layout height="wrap content"
       android:layout marginBottom="8sp"
       android:onClick="addSubVal"
       android:text="@string/add"
       android:textSize="24sp" />
   <Button
       android:id="@+id/subBtn"
       android:layout width="119dp"
       android:layout height="wrap content"
       android:onClick="addSubVal"
       android:text="@string/sub"
       android:textSize="24sp" />
</LinearLayout>
<ProgressBar
   android:id="@+id/progressBar"
   style="?android:attr/progressBarStyleHorizontal"
   android:layout width="289dp"
   android:layout height="55dp"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
```

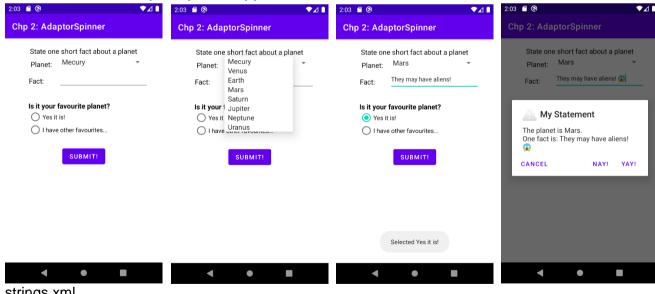
```
app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent'
       app:layout_constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.544" />
    <TextView
       android:id="@+id/progressScore"
       android:layout_width="wrap_content"
       android:layout height="wrap content"
       android:text="0 / 100"
       android:textSize="24sp"
       app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintTop toBottomOf="@+id/progressBar"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.134" />
</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```

Example 3: AdaptorSpinner

This app introduces other commonly present Widgets, such as the Spinner (found inside Containers in the Palette), which allows the user to pick an option from a predefined list, and the RadioGroup and RadioButton (found inside **Buttons** in the Palette). The app also shows the use of a Dialog, which is a pop-up window which will only disappear when the user acknowledges one of the options. In this app, information will be retrieved from the user's selection of options then upon clicking on "Submit!", the Dialog will display the consolidated information.

You may also want to play around with the EditText, which is in fact, a MultiAutoCompleteTextView, which allows the user to type multiple lines in the TextView and gives options to complete the sentence, much like many of the text messaging functions of many apps today.





strings.xml

```
<resources>
   <string name="app name">Chp 2: AdaptorSpinner</string>
    <string name="title">State one short fact about a planet</string>
    <string name="planet">Planet: </string>
    <string name="favourite">Is it your favourite planet?</string>
```

```
<string name="yesFav">Yes it is!</string>
   <string name="noFav">I have other favourites...
   <string name="fact">Fact: </string>
    <string name="submit">Submit!</string>
   <string-array name="planetList">
       <item>Mecury</item>
       <item>Venus</item>
       <item>Earth</item>
       <item>Mars</item>
       <item>Saturn</item>
       <item>Jupiter</item>
       <item>Neptune</item>
       <item>Uranus</item>
   </string-array>
    <string name="alertTitle">My Statement</string>
</resources>
```

MainActivity.kt

```
import android.content.Context
2
      import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
3
     import android.os.Bundle
     import android.view.MotionEvent
4
5
     import android.view.View
6
     import android.view.inputmethod.InputMethodManager
7
     import android.widget.*
8
     import androidx.appcompat.app.AlertDialog
9
10
     class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
11
         private lateinit var planet : String
12
          private lateinit var fact : String
          private var fav : Boolean = false
13
14
15
          override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
16
              super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
17
              setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
              val spinner : Spinner = findViewById(R.id.spinner)
18
19
              val radioGrp = findViewById<RadioGroup>(R.id.radio_group)
              val planetList = resources.getStringArray(R.array.planetList)
2.0
21
              val adapter = ArrayAdapter(this, android.R.layout.simple spinner item, planetList)
2.2
              spinner.adapter = adapter
              spinner.onItemSelectedListener = object : AdapterView.OnItemSelectedListener{
23
24
                  override fun onItemSelected(parent: AdapterView<*>, view:View,
25
                                                    position:Int, id:Long) {
2.6
                      closeKeyboard()
27
                      planet = planetList[position]
2.8
                      Toast.makeText(this@MainActivity,
29
                          planetList[position] + " has been selected!", Toast.LENGTH SHORT).show()
30
                  override fun onNothingSelected(parent: AdapterView<*>?) {
31
32
                      closeKeyboard()
33
                      Toast.makeText(this@MainActivity,
                          "No planet selected! Select a planet.", Toast.LENGTH SHORT).show()
34
3.5
36
37
              radioGrp.setOnCheckedChangeListener { , checkedId ->
38
                  val radio: RadioButton = findViewById(checkedId)
39
                  closeKeyboard()
40
                  fav = if (checkedId == R.id.yesFav)
41
                      radio.text.equals(R.string.yesFav) else radio.text.equals(R.string.noFav)
42
                  Toast.makeText(this@MainActivity,
43
                      "Selected ${radio.text}", Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show()
44
45
```

```
46
          // The method will force the touch keyboard to hide when user touches anywhere on screen
47
          override fun onTouchEvent(event: MotionEvent?): Boolean {
48
              closeKevboard()
49
              return true
50
51
          fun closeKevboard(){
52
              val imm = getSystemService(Context.INPUT METHOD SERVICE) as InputMethodManager
53
              if(imm.isAcceptingText) imm.hideSoftInputFromWindow(currentFocus!!.windowToken, 0)
54
5.5
          fun submitBtn(view: View) {
56
              closeKeyboard()
57
              fact = (findViewById<AutoCompleteTextView>(R.id.fact)).text.toString()
58
              var start = ""
59
              start += if (fav) "My favourite planet is " else "The planet is "
60
61
              val builder = AlertDialog.Builder(this)
62
              val diagText = "$start$planet.\nOne fact is: $fact"
63
              builder.setTitle(R.string.alertTitle)
64
              builder.setMessage(diagText)
65
              builder.setIcon(android.R.drawable.ic dialog alert)
66
              // Performing positive action
67
68
              builder.setPositiveButton("Yay!"){ ,
                  Toast.makeText(applicationContext, "Clicked Yay!", Toast.LENGTH LONG).show()
69
70
71
              // Performing cancel action
              builder.setNeutralButton("Cancel"){ ,
72
                                                       ->
73
                  Toast.makeText(applicationContext, "Clicked Cancel", Toast.LENGTH LONG).show()
74
75
76
              // Performing negative action
77
              builder.setNegativeButton("Nay!"){ ,
                  Toast.makeText(applicationContext, "Clicked Nay!", Toast.LENGTH LONG).show()
78
79
80
              // Create the AlertDialog
81
              val alertDialog: AlertDialog = builder.create()
82
              // Set other dialog properties
83
              alertDialog.setCancelable(false)
84
              alertDialog.show()
8.5
86
```

Explanation:

Lines 20 to 36

The spinner needs to use of an array Adapter to store the options (in this case, it will be the planets information. To do that we can define a **string array** in strings.xml, pull the resource from the XML file, then store the resource into an ArrayAdapter object. This ArrayAdapter will be part of the adapter attribute of the Spinner object and the onItemSelectedListener will be setup to retrieve the user selected options. **Note that as there is more than one method which needs to be overridden, a lambda expression cannot be written.**

To obtain the string from the user selected option, you can simply call planets[position], such that the position is the index of the item in the adapter.

Lines 37 to 43

The OnCheckedChangedListener needs to be setup for the RadioGroup such that the user selected option will be indicated by the checkedId parameter.

Note that both radio buttons MUST have different ids. A Toast will then be generated containing the option the user selected.

	Note lines 40 and 41, where Kotlin allows an if statement (or when statement) to be written after the assignment operator, effectively shortening the if-else statement.
Lines 55 to 85	This method is linked to the onClick attribute of the "Submit!" button, and the AlertDialog Builder object will be called, where different attributes are subsequently set. You can also set the different buttons of the dialog to have customized texts and actions (the PositiveButton and NegativeButton). Finally, do not forget to actually create the AlertDialog and show it.
	A Dialog can be quite a powerful feature you may want to use in your apps and can be used in ways more than just a simple AlertDialog. You can view more applications in the link below: https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/ui/dialogs

activity_main.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout</pre>
xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
   xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
   xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
   android:layout width="match parent"
   android:layout_height="match_parent"
   tools:context=".MainActivity">
   <TextView
       android:id="@+id/textView"
       android:layout width="59dp"
       android:layout_height="26dp"
       android:text="@string/planet"
       android:textAlignment="center"
       android:textColor="@android:color/black"
       android:textSize="16sp"
       app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.178"
       app:layout constraintLeft toLeftOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintRight toRightOf="parent"
       app:layout_constraintTop_toBottomOf="@+id/textView3"
       app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.019" />
    <TextView
       android:id="@+id/textView2"
       android:layout width="59dp"
       android:layout height="26dp"
       android:layout marginTop="8dp"
       android:text="@string/fact"
       android:textAlignment="viewStart"
       android:textColor="@android:color/black"
       android:textSize="16sp"
       app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="@+id/fact"
       app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.181"
        app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintTop toBottomOf="@+id/textView"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.6" />
    <TextView
       android:id="@+id/textView3"
       android:layout width="wrap content"
```

```
android:layout height="wrap content"
   android:layout marginTop="8dp"
   android:text="@string/title"
   android:textColor="@android:color/black"
   android:textSize="16sp"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintHorizontal bias="0.496"
   app:layout constraintLeft toLeftOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintRight toRightOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.022" />
<Spinner
   android:id="@+id/spinner"
   android:layout width="205dp"
   android:layout height="29dp"
   app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.227"
   app:layout constraintStart toEndOf="@+id/textView"
   app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.082" />
<RadioGroup
   android:id="@+id/radio group"
   android:layout width="283dp"
   android:layout height="109dp"
   android:layout marginTop="16dp"
   android:padding="15dp"
   app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
   app:layout_constraintTop_toBottomOf="@+id/textView2">
   <TextView
       android:id="@+id/fav"
       android:layout width="match parent"
       android:layout height="wrap content"
       android:text="@string/favourite"
       android:textColor="@color/black"
       android:textSize="16sp"
       android:textStyle="bold" />
    <RadioButton
       android:id="@+id/yesFav"
        android:layout width="95dp"
        android:layout height="29dp"
       android:text="@string/yesFav" />
    <RadioButton
       android:id="@+id/noFav"
       android:layout width="192dp"
       android:layout height="30dp"
       android:text="@string/noFav" />
</RadioGroup>
<MultiAutoCompleteTextView
   android:id="@+id/fact"
   android:layout_width="206dp"
   android:layout height="48dp"
   android:textSize="14sp"
   app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
   app:layout constraintHorizontal bias="0.214"
```

```
app:layout constraintStart toEndOf="@+id/textView2"
       app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.145" />
    <Button
       android:id="@+id/submit"
       android:layout width="wrap content"
       android:layout height="wrap content"
       android:layout_marginTop="8dp"
       android:onClick="submitBtn"
        android:text="@string/submit"
       app:layout constraintBottom toBottomOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
       app:layout constraintTop toBottomOf="@+id/radio group"
       app:layout constraintVertical bias="0.0" />
</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```

[Reference]

- [1] Android Layout and Views https://data-flair.training/blogs/android-layout-and-views/
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- [4] TextView https://developer.android.com/reference/kotlin/android/widget/TextView
- [5] Good Fonts for Dyslexia (Rello, Baeza-Yates, 2013):
 http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/sites/default/files/good fonts for dyslexia study.pdf
- [5] ImageView https://developer.android.com/reference/android/widget/ImageView
- [6] Screen Densities of Multiple Screens:
 - https://developer.android.com/training/multiscreen/screendensities
- [7] Android Event Handling
 - https://www.tutorialspoint.com/android/android_event_handling.htm