

Intro to Programming II

Interfaces

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15-2: Inheritance review

- Inheritance allows us to reuse existing code.
- Allows us to define a hierarchy of classes.
- *Base class* has the most general behavior
- *Derived classes* have more specific behavior.

15-3: Example

```
public class Person
{
    public String lastName;
    public String id;
    public void eat() { };
    public void sleep() { };
}
```

15-4: Example

```
public class Professor extends Person
{
    public String officeNum;
    public void teach() { };
    public void grade() { };
    public void forget() { };
}
```

15-5: Constructors and Inheritance

- Suppose that the Person constructor looks like this:

```
public Person(String lname) {  
    lastName = lname;  
}
```

- How can we still set the last name in derived class constructors?

15-6: Constructors and Inheritance

- We could do something like this:

```
public Professor(String lname, String office) {  
    lastName = lname;  
    officeNum = office;  
}
```

- Except:
 - We just had to cut and paste code. (we hate that!)
 - If the base class changes, all derived classes need to change.

15-7: Constructors and Inheritance

- Instead, let's just indicate that the parent class' constructor should be called.
- We do this with `super()`

```
public Professor(String lname, String office) {  
    super(lname);  
    officeNum = office;  
}
```

- Now we don't need to worry about what the base class' constructor does anymore.

15-8: More on super()

- We can also use `super` to explicitly call a superclass' method.
- This lets us *extend* a method, rather than overriding it.
- For example, let's say that `Person` has the following method:

```
/* in Person.java */
public void greet() {
    System.out.println("Nice to meet you");
}
```

15-9: More on super()

- We'd like for professors to do this greeting, plus a little extra. (They're long-winded.) So we can do this:

```
/* in Professor.java */
public void greet() {
    System.out.print("`I do say, old chap,`");
    super.greet();
}
```

15-10: Exercise

- Write a base class called `Animal`. Give it two instance variables (`name` and `furColor`). Give it a constructor that sets both of these.
- Give `Animal` a `printSelf` method that prints out the following:
 - My name is (`name`). My fur is (`furColor`).
- Now create a class called `Cat` that inherits from `Animal`. `Cat` should have one instance variable: `age`.
- Write a constructor for `Cat` that takes three arguments: `name`, `furColor`, and `age`. It should set `age` itself, then call `super` with the other two arguments.
- Write a method in `Cat` called `printSelf`. It should print “I am a cat”, then call the superclass’ `printSelf` method.

15-11: Interfaces

- Previously, we talked about abstract classes.
- They allow a superclass to specify the methods a subclass will respond to without providing an implementation.
- Sometimes abstract classes can be awkward to deal with.
- For example, let's say we want to create a class called Bat that inherits from Animal.
- We also want to say that Bat is a FlyingThing, and that FlyingThings respond to the fly() method.
- But we already inherited from Animal!

15-12: Interfaces

- *Interfaces* allow us to specify methods that an object is guaranteed to respond to, without specifying an implementation.
- A class can implement as many interfaces as it wants.

```
public interface FlyingThing {
    public void fly();
}
public class Bat extends Animal implements FlyingThing {
    public void fly() {
        System.out.println("I'm flying!");
    }
}
```

15-13: Interfaces

- Interfaces let us specify which methods an object should respond to, without specifying how they should respond.
- This provides polymorphism - each object responds to a method in the appropriate way.
- A class can implement as many interfaces as it wants.

15-14: Interfaces in the JDK

- Comparable
- Iterable
- Iterator
- Cloneable
- Readable
- and many, many more

15-15: Comparable

- Comparable is a particularly useful interface.
- `compareTo` allows you to specify a 'less than' relationship for arbitrary objects.

15-16: Comparable

```
public class Cat extends Animal implements Comparable {
    public int compareTo(Object other) {
        if (!(other instanceof Cat)) {
            System.out.println("Can't compare these!");
            return 0;
        } else {
            int age2 = ((Cat)other).age;
            if (age < age2)
                return -1;
            else if (age > age2)
                return 1;
            else
                return 0;
        }
    }
}
```

15-17: Exercise

- Rewrite Shape to be an Interface that declares an area() method.
- Rewrite Circle and Rectangle to implement the Shape interface.
- Now have Rectangle and Circle also implement the Comparable interface.
 - They will need to implement the compareTo method. Have them compare areas.