

# Basic Input/Output

## 1 Screen Output

The Java standard library provides three primary methods in the `System.out` object for sending text output to the screen.

- `System.out.print`
- `System.out.println`
- `System.out.printf` (which just calls `System.out.format`)

## 2 `System.out.print`

`System.out.print` takes a `String` parameter and sends the string to the screen. The statements

```
System.out.print("Me");  
System.out.print("ow!");
```

will produce the output

```
Meow!
```

## 3 `System.out.println`

`System.out.println` does the same as `System.out.print` but adds a newline character. The statements

```
System.out.println("Johnny");  
System.out.println("Chimpo");
```

will produce the output

```
Johnny  
Chimpo
```

## 4 System.out.printf

`System.out.printf` takes a *format string* and any number of additional arguments, and prints the result of inserting the additional arguments into the format string according to the format specifiers in the format string

- The format string can contain other text in addition to format specifiers
- Each format specifier begins with % and ends with a *conversion character*
- You can think of each format specifier as defining a field into which a value is inserted
- Like `print`, `printf` does not print a newline character at the end. End your format string with `\n` if you want to end your output with a newline

`printf` is a convenience method for `format`

## 5 System.out.printf Examples

For full details, see <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Formatter.html#syntax>. Here are a few examples

- “Decimals” (integers) - `d`, Strings - `s`

```
System.out.printf("%d %s.\n", 7, "Samurai");
```

prints

```
7 Samurai.
```

- Floating point numbers - `f`

```
System.out.printf("I like %3.2f.\n", Math.PI);
```

prints

```
I like 3.14.
```

Play around with [ConsoleOutput.java](#) to get a feel for `printf`.

## 6 Number Formatting

`printf` is useful for general formatting, but if you need to print currency amounts and you want to “internationalize” your code, use a `CurrencyFormatter` `NumberFormat`.

```
NumberFormat us = NumberFormat.getCurrencyInstance();
System.out.println(us.format(3.14));

NumberFormat de = NumberFormat.getCurrencyInstance(Locale.GERMANY);
System.out.println(de.format(3.14));
```

prints

```
$3.14
3,14 €
```

## 7 Packages and Imports

- All Java classes are organized in packages
- We’ve been using the default package (by not specifying a package)
- To use a class from a different package, you must either fully qualify it every time you use it, or import it

`NumberFormat` is in the `java.text` package. The top of the `NumberFormat` class contains the line:

```
package java.text;
```

And `Locale` is in the `java.util` package. So for our example from the previous slide to work we must include the following import statements at the top of our source file:

```
import java.text.NumberFormat;
import java.util.Locale;
```

See [CurrencyFormatting.java](#)

## 8 Console Input

You can read input from the console using the `Scanner` class

- First import it from the `java.util` package

```
import java.util.Scanner;
```

- Then you can use a `Scanner` object to read, for example, three integers like this:

```
Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.println("Enter your 3 test scores, separated by spaces.");
exam1 = keyboard.nextInt();
exam2 = keyboard.nextInt();
exam3 = keyboard.nextInt();
examAvg = (exam1 + exam2 + exam3) / 3.0; // Why 3.0 instead of 3?
System.out.printf("Your exam average is %.1f\n", examAvg);
```

## 9 Basic File Input using Scanner

You can read from a file the same way you read from a keyboard by simply initializing with a `File` instead of `System.in`

```
Scanner gradeFile = new Scanner(new File("grades.txt"));
```

`Scanner`'s `hasNext` method tells you whether there's more input to consume. A common idiom for reading all the lines of a text file is:

```
Scanner fileScanner = new Scanner(new File("ScannerFun.java"));
while (fileScanner.hasNext()) {
    String line = fileScanner.nextLine();
    // do something with line
}
```

See [CourseAverage.java](#) for a more detailed example.

## 10 Basic File Output using PrintStream

Look up `System.out` in the Java API documentaion. What's the type of `System`'s `out` static variable?

- `System.out` is initialized to use the program's `stdout` file desicriptor, which is the console if output hasn't been redirected.
- We can create `PrintStreams` with other files or `OutputStreams` and write to them jsut like we've been eriting to the console.

```
PrintStream outFile = new PrintStream(new File("somefile.txt"));
outFile.println(...);
```

Stop and think about this for a moment. We can write to a text file the same way we write to a text console. What general principle in computing/programming is this an example of?

## 11 Programming Exercise

Write a program that

- reads all the lines of a file whose name is given at the command line,
- creates a new file whose file name is the original file name with “-uppercase” appended to the base name<sup>1</sup>, and
- writes all the lines of the original file to the new file but in uppercase letters.

To do this, you’ll need to look up `String`’s `lastIndexOf`, `substring`, `toUpperCase` methods in the Java API.

- Note: `File`’s constructor throws a `FileNotFoundException`. For now, deal with this by appending `throws Exception` to the signature of any method that instantiates a `File` or calls a method that does so. For example, in your solution to this exercise the main method’s signature should be:

```
public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception
```

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<sup>1</sup>The base name of a file is the part that appears before the extension, e.g., the basename of `MyClass.java` is `MyClass`.