Access Modifiers in Java

There are two types of modifiers in Java: **access modifiers** and **non-access modifiers**.

The access modifiers in Java specifies the accessibility or scope of a field, method, constructor, or class. We can change the access level of fields, constructors, methods, and class by applying the access modifier on it.

There are four types of Java access modifiers:

1. **Private**: The access level of a private modifier is only within the class. It cannot be accessed from outside the class.
2. **Default**: The access level of a default modifier is only within the package. It cannot be accessed from outside the package. If you do not specify any access level, it will be the default.
3. **Protected**: The access level of a protected modifier is within the package and outside the package through child class. If you do not make the child class, it cannot be accessed from outside the package.
4. **Public**: The access level of a public modifier is everywhere. It can be accessed from within the class, outside the class, within the package and outside the package.

There are many non-access modifiers, such as static, abstract, synchronized, native, volatile, transient, etc. Here, we are going to learn the access modifiers only.

Understanding Java Access Modifiers

Let's understand the access modifiers in Java by a simple table.

Access Modifier	within class	within package	outside package by subclass only	outside package
Private	Y	N	N	N
Default	Y	Y	N	N

Protected	Y	Y	Y	N
Public	Y	Y	Y	Y

Java static keyword

The **static keyword** in Java is used for memory management mainly. We can apply static keyword with variables, methods, blocks and nested classes. The static keyword belongs to the class than an instance of the class.

The static can be:

1. Variable (also known as a class variable)
2. Method (also known as a class method)
3. Block
4. Nested class

1) Java static variable

If you declare any variable as static, it is known as a static variable.

- The static variable can be used to refer to the common property of all objects (which is not unique for each object), for example, the company name of employees, college name of students, etc.
- The static variable gets memory only once in the class area at the time of class loading.

Advantages of static variable

It makes your program **memory efficient** (i.e., it saves memory).

Understanding the problem without static variable

```
1. class Student{
2.     int rollno;
3.     String name;
4.     String college="ITS";
5. }
```

Suppose there are 500 students in my college, now all instance data members will get memory each time when the object is created. All students have its unique rollno and name, so instance data member is good in such case. Here, "college" refers to the

common property of all objects. If we make it static, this field will get the memory only once.

> ***Java static property is shared to all objects.***

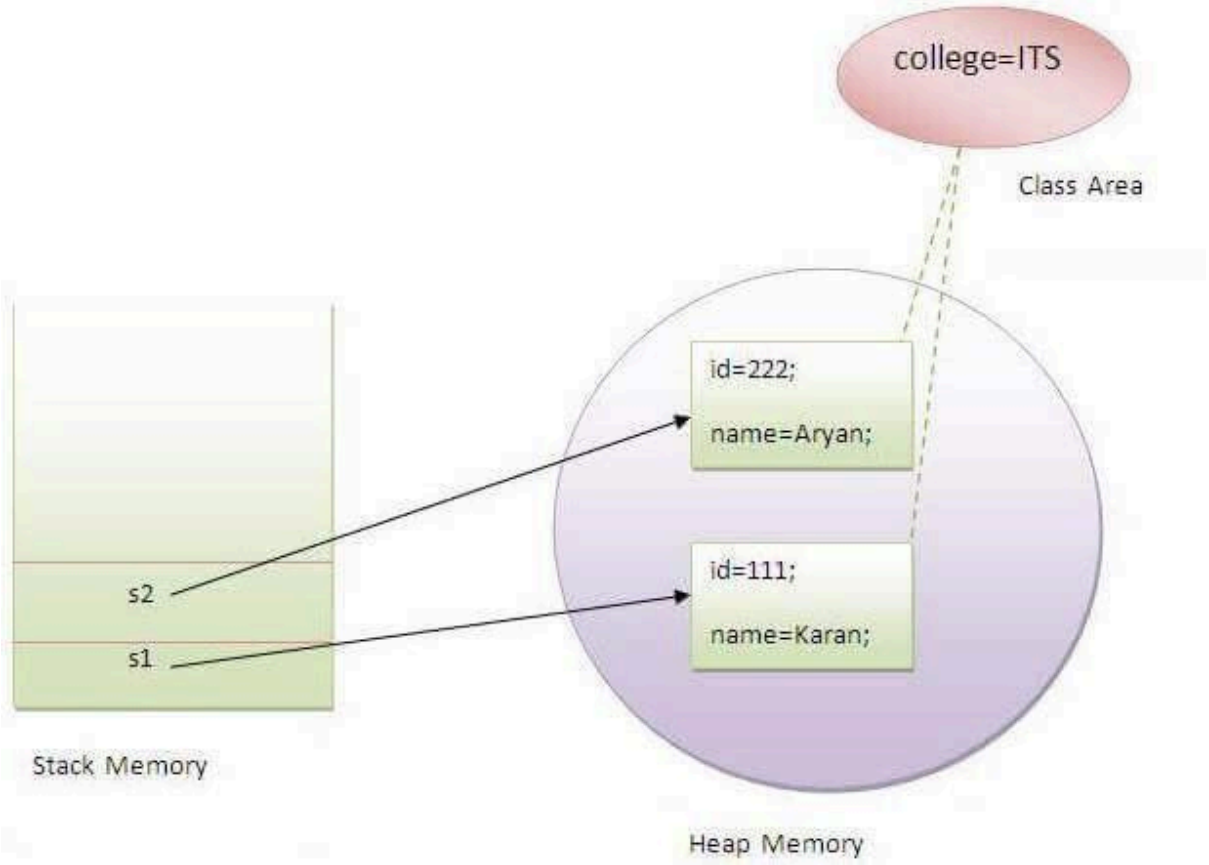
Example of static variable

```
1.  //Java Program to demonstrate the use of static variable
2.  class Student{
3.     int rollno;//instance variable
4.     String name;
5.     static String college ="ITS";//static variable
6.     //constructor
7.     Student(int r, String n){
8.     rollno = r;
9.     name = n;
10.    }
11.    //method to display the values
12.    void display (){System.out.println(rollno+" "+name+" "+college);}
13. }
14. //Test class to show the values of objects
15. public class TestStaticVariable1{
16.  public static void main(String args[]){
17.  Student s1 = new Student(111,"Karan");
18.  Student s2 = new Student(222,"Aryan");
19.  //we can change the college of all objects by the single line of code
20.  //Student.college="BBDIT";
21.  s1.display();
22.  s2.display();
23. }
24. }
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
111 Karan ITS
222 Aryan ITS
```



Program of the counter without static variable

In this example, we have created an instance variable named count which is incremented in the constructor. Since instance variable gets the memory at the time of object creation, each object will have the copy of the instance variable. If it is incremented, it won't reflect other objects. So each object will have the value 1 in the count variable.

```
1.  //Java Program to demonstrate the use of an instance variable
2.  //which get memory each time when we create an object of the class.
3.  class Counter{
4.  int count=0;//will get memory each time when the instance is created
5.
6.  Counter(){
7.  count++;//incrementing value
8.  System.out.println(count);
9.  }
10.
11. public static void main(String args[]){
12. //Creating objects
13. Counter c1=new Counter();
14. Counter c2=new Counter();
15. Counter c3=new Counter();
16. }
17. }
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
1
1
1
```

Program of counter by static variable

As we have mentioned above, static variable will get the memory only once, if any object changes the value of the static variable, it will retain its value.

```
1.  //Java Program to illustrate the use of static variable which
2.  //is shared with all objects.
3.  class Counter2{
4.  static int count=0;//will get memory only once and retain its value
5.
6.  Counter2(){
7.  count++;//incrementing the value of static variable
8.  System.out.println(count);
9.  }
10.
11.  public static void main(String args[]){
12.  //creating objects
13.  Counter2 c1=new Counter2();
14.  Counter2 c2=new Counter2();
15.  Counter2 c3=new Counter2();
16.  }
17.  }
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
1
2
3
```

---

2) Java static method

If you apply static keyword with any method, it is known as static method.

- A static method belongs to the class rather than the object of a class.
- A static method can be invoked without the need for creating an instance of a class.
- A static method can access static data member and can change the value of it.

Example of static method

```
1.  //Java Program to demonstrate the use of a static method.
2.  class Student{
3.      int rollno;
4.      String name;
5.      static String college = "ITS";
6.      //static method to change the value of static variable
```

```
7.      static void change(){
8.      college = "BBDIT";
9.      }
10.     //constructor to initialize the variable
11.     Student(int r, String n){
12.     rollno = r;
13.     name = n;
14.     }
15.     //method to display values
16.     void display(){System.out.println(rollno+" "+name+" "+college);}
17. }
18. //Test class to create and display the values of object
19. public class TestStaticMethod{
20.    public static void main(String args[]){
21.    Student.change();//calling change method
22.    //creating objects
23.    Student s1 = new Student(111,"Karan");
24.    Student s2 = new Student(222,"Aryan");
25.    Student s3 = new Student(333,"Sonoo");
26.    //calling display method
27.    s1.display();
28.    s2.display();
29.    s3.display();
30.    }
31. }
```

Test it Now

```
Output:111 Karan BBDIT
       222 Aryan BBDIT
       333 Sonoo BBDIT
```

Another example of a static method that performs a normal calculation

```
1.  //Java Program to get the cube of a given number using the static method
2.
3.  class Calculate{
4.    static int cube(int x){
5.    return x*x*x;
6.    }
7.
8.    public static void main(String args[]){
9.    int result=Calculate.cube(5);
10.   System.out.println(result);
11.   }
12. }
```

Test it Now

```
Output:125
```

Restrictions for the static method

There are two main restrictions for the static method. They are:

1. The static method can not use non static data member or call non-static method directly.
2. this and super cannot be used in static context.

```
1.  class A{
2.   int a=40;//non static
3.
4.   public static void main(String args[]){
5.    System.out.println(a);
6.   }
7.  }
```

Test it Now

```
Output:Compile Time Error
```

Q) Why is the Java main method static?

Ans) It is because the object is not required to call a static method. If it were a non-static method, JVM creates an object first then call main() method that will lead the problem of extra memory allocation.

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3) Java static block

- Is used to initialize the static data member.
- It is executed before the main method at the time of classloading.

Example of static block

```
1.  class A2{
2.    static{System.out.println("static block is invoked");}
3.    public static void main(String args[]){
4.     System.out.println("Hello main");
5.    }
6.  }
```

Test it Now

```
Output:static block is invoked
       Hello main
```

Q) Can we execute a program without main() method?

Ans) No, one of the ways was the static block, but it was possible till JDK 1.6. Since JDK 1.7, it is not possible to execute a Java class without the main method.

```
1.  class A3{
2.    static{
3.    System.out.println("static block is invoked");
4.    System.exit(0);
5.    }
6.  }
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
static block is invoked
```

Since JDK 1.7 and above, output would be:

```
Error: Main method not found in class A3, please define the main method as:
   public static void main(String[] args)
or a JavaFX application class must extend javafx.application.Application
```