Java Packages

Packages are a way to organize related classes into groups

All Java classes belong to a package – if you don’t specify one, then they belong to the “default package”

Package declarations are part of the API – at the top of a class declaration, you will find the declaration of what package your file is in

Declaring membership in a package, e.g. cse1030.games.wordgames

package cse1030.games.wordgames;

This goes as the first line of your class, before the class declaration

Remember the “blank” access specifier is a valid specifier – means the feature is available within the package

Constructors

* Constructors are special methods executed when the object is created
* They have no return type (i.e. it’s blank) and have the exact same name as the class
* You can have more than one constructor – Java decides which one you want to use by looking at the parameters
* If you provide no constructor, Java automatically uses a “default” constructor with no parameters
  + However, if you provide a non-default constructor with parameters, you can no longer use the default no-parameter constructor

this keyword

* As a field: refers to the current object
* As a method: this() refers to a constructor

Mutator versus accessor methods

* an accessor method returns the value of an internal field
* a mutator method can change the value of an internal field
* A class with no mutator methods is called immutable