



# Java enums

Enum types for fixed sets of  
constants



# How do we create enumerable lists of constants?

We use enum types!

New keyword: `enum`

Enums work like classes and you declare one like this:

```
public enum WeekDay{  
  
    // UPPER_CASE_CONSTANTS  
  
}
```

# Simple example

```
public enum Bill{  
    TWENTY, FIFTY, HUNDRED, FIVE_HUNDRED, THOUSAND;  
}
```

The above create an enumerable type for the Swedish bills (bank notes).

# What makes Java enums special?

Enums can have constructors (private or package private):

```
public enum Bill{
    TWENTY(20),
    FIFTY(50),
    HUNDRED(100),
    FIVE_HUNDRED(500),
    THOUSAND(1000);
    private int value;
    Bill(int value){
        this.value = value;
    }
}
```

# What makes Java enums special?

Enums have methods and can declare new ones.

The interesting inherited methods are:

`name()` - the name of the constant as declared

`ordinal()` - the ordinal of the constant (starts with 0)

# What can we use methods for?

Accessor methods which allows for a range of values for each constant:

```
public enum WeekDay{
    SUNDAY("Söndag"),
    MONDAY("Måndag"),
    TUESDAY("Tisdag"),
    WEDNESDAY("Onsdag"),
    THURSDAY("Torsdag"),
    FRIDAY("Fredag"),
    SATURDAY("Lördag");
    private String swedish;
    private WeekDay(String swedish){
        this.swedish = swedish;
    }
    public String swedishName(){
        return swedish;
    }
    ....
}
```

# Since enums declare constants we can use ==

```
public boolean isHoliday() {  
    return this==SATURDAY||this==SUNDAY;  
}  
public boolean isWeekday() {  
    return !isHoliday();  
}
```

# Enums also have some implicit methods

The compiler adds some implicit method. A useful one is `values()`

```
for(WeekDay day : WeekDay.values()) {  
    // Do stuff with day  
}
```



# Declaring a variable of enum type

```
WeekDay aDay = WeekDay.SATURDAY;  
System.out.printf("The Swedish name for %s is %s\n",  
                  aDay,  
                  aDay.swedishName());
```

# What about toString() ?

The default implementation of toString() returns the constant name as declared (e.g. MONDAY) as a String.

But we can of course override that behaviour:

```
@Override
public String toString() {
    return upperFirst(name());
}
private String upperFirst(String s) {
    return s.charAt(0) + s.substring(1).toLowerCase();
}
```

# Example enum for week days

```
public enum WeekDay{
    SUNDAY("Söndag"),
    MONDAY("Måndag"),
    TUESDAY("Tisdag"),
    WEDNESDAY("Onsdag"),
    THURSDAY("Torsdag"),
    FRIDAY("Fredag"),
    SATURDAY("Lördag");
    private String swedish;
    private WeekDay(String swedish){
        this.swedish = swedish;
    }
}
```

# Example enum for week days

```
public String swedishName(){
    return swedish;
}
public boolean isHoliday(){
    return this==SATURDAY||this==SUNDAY;
}
public boolean isWeekday(){
    return !isHoliday();
}
@Override
public String toString(){
    return upperFirst(name());
}
private String upperFirst(String s){
    return s.charAt(0) + s.substring(1).toLowerCase();
}
}
```

# Main class

```
public class EnumTest{
    public static void main(String[] args){
        for(WeekDay day : WeekDay.values()){
            System.out.printf("%s is in Swedish: %s and is %s\n",
                day,
                day.swedishName(),
                (day.isHoliday()?"a holiday"
                    :"a weekday.));
        }
        WeekDay aDay = WeekDay.SATURDAY;
        System.out.printf("The Swedish name for %s is %s\n", aDay, aDay.swedishName());
    }
}
```

# Compile and run example (with package)

```
$ javac enumexample/EnumTest.java && java enumexample.EnumTest
Sunday is in Swedish: Söndag and is a holiday
Monday is in Swedish: Måndag and is a weekday.
Tuesday is in Swedish: Tisdag and is a weekday.
Wednesday is in Swedish: Onsdag and is a weekday.
Thursday is in Swedish: Torsdag and is a weekday.
Friday is in Swedish: Fredag and is a weekday.
Saturday is in Swedish: Lördag and is a holiday
The Swedish name for Saturday is Lördag
```