CMSC131

Enumerated Types

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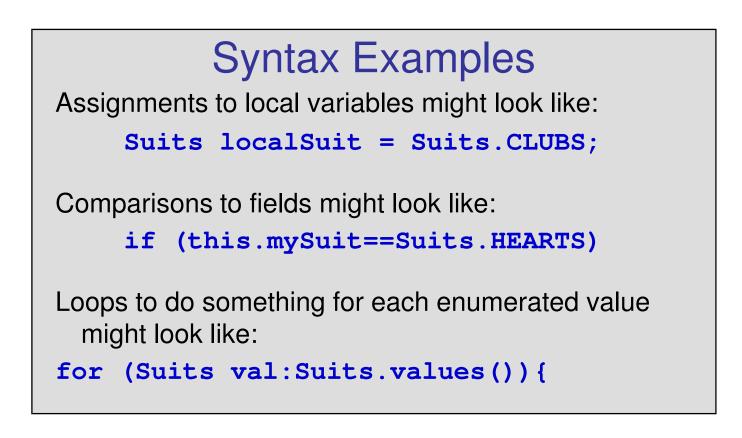
There are times when a programmer might want to have a natural way to represent and use a small set of words as if they were primitive values.

In Project 6, we used numbers to represent suits for the cards. Would you have preferred it if you could have used their names?

Enumerated types can essentially allow you to define a list of new human-friendly constants.

Enumerated Type: Suits
Imagine if in Project 6, we had the following
enumerated type defined:
public static enum Suits {
 SPADES, HEARTS, CLUBS, DIAMONDS, STARS
}
Your code could then have used Suits as a type the

same way we use other data types for variable names, fields, parameters, etc.



More advanced uses of enum

In later courses you might see ways that Java's approach for enumerated types can support additional fields and methods and become a more complex for of user-defined constants.

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