

The following mild coding standard will ensure easily readable and modifiable Java source code.

1. Be consistent when using the freedom that this standard leaves.
2. *Always* use curly braces `{ }` after
 - **if** (...)
 - **else**, *unless* immediately followed by **if** for multiway selection
 - **while** (...)
 - **for** (...)
 - **do**
 - **try** and **catch** (...)
3. Indent systematically a multiple of 4 spaces, or, as systematically, 3. *Never* use TAB characters in source code.
4. *Never* make lines longer than will fit in the window on your screen. This is important for the person who helps you in class.
5. *Always* write the following items on separate lines:
 - variable declarations (includes constants via **final**)
 - statements

That is, do not put two or more declarations or statements on the same line.
6. *Always* explain every variable declaration in a comment, unless its name is completely self-explanatory.
7. Put opening braces at the end of the line that introduces them, instead of putting them on a separate line. This will put more information in the visible window on your screen, which is important for the person who helps you in class.
8. *Never* write a space before the following items and *always* write one space after them (*unless* at line end):
 - `,` `;`
9. *Always* write one space before and after the following items:
 - keywords
 - operators: `=` `+` `-` `*` `/` `%` `==` `!=` `<` `>` `<=` `>=` `!` `&&` `||`
10. *Always* write one empty line before and after the following items:
 - block of constant definitions, instance or local variable declarations
 - each method definition

References

- [1] *Java Coding Standards*. ESA, 2005.
<ftp.estec.esa.nl/pub/wm/wme/bssc/Java-Coding-Standards-20050303-releaseA.pdf>
- [2] *Code Conventions for the Java Programming Language*. Sun, 1999.
java.sun.com/docs/codeconv