

Discussion Questions for “Defining Methods – Part I”

1. Did you learn about function machines when you learned elementary arithmetic? Does the function machine analogy help to understand how methods work?
2. Why is it important to manage access control for methods? Can you think of reasons to make a method private, protected, or public?
3. Think of a method as a box around some code. What data outside the box can be manipulated by the method? What data is local to only the method itself?
4. Can I use the same local variable name in two different methods? If I do, will that variable contain the same data for both methods or will the data be different? Can the method access fields? Can the method access static variables?
5. Can you think of a reason to use a variable length parameter list? Describe an application that uses a variable parameter list, and show the method header that would use it.