

Discussion Questions for “Abstract Methods”

1. If I make a parent class called “BankAccount” with an abstract “getFees()” method, then I can have a reference variable of type BankAccount that invokes the getFees() method. Explain how this situation might occur, and why it is always valid. After all, there are no instructions associated with the getFees() method in the BankAccount class.
2. The concept of “abstract” is probably the single most important concept in all of computer science. Can you describe some other cases where we think of things abstractly, but for which there is a concrete implementation? For instance, what is the difference between an abstract integer, and the concrete implementation of “int” in Java?
3. There is a fascinating paper called [The Law of Leaky Abstractions](#) written by Joel Spolsky (co-founder of [StackOverflow](#)). The basic concept is that it is useful to think about things abstractly, but occasionally, we need to know about the concrete as well as the abstract to write good software. Can you describe a case where, even though it is useful to think of an abstract method abstractly, we need to know about the concrete implementation of that method?