CMSC131

Some guidelines for naming identifiers (variables, constants, etc) and formatting your code.

Naming Identifiers (I)

There are some Java-enforced rules like...

- The first character must be a letter, the underscore or a dollar sign.
- Names are CaseSensitive
- There are reserved words that you cannot use (such as if, else, class, etc.)
- Names cannot contain certain special characters (such as -, %, +, &, !, etc.)
Naming Identifiers (II)

There are naming "conventions" that we want you to follow like…

- Don't start a name with a $ (this is usually an indication of a system-level identifier).
- Don't differ identifiers JUST by Case.
- Use meaningful names (eg: the name should express what is being held there).
- Use English words (at least when coding here).
- This isn't Twitter 😊 so don't go to crazy dropping vowels and consonants.
- Use "Camel Case" formatting.

"Camel Case"

- Your variable names and method names start with lower case letters.
- Your class and interface names start with upper case letters.
- Each word other than the first word starts with an upper case letter.
  ```java
  int myFirstInteger;
  public class MyFirstClass {
  
  • Constants are ALL UPPERCASE with underscores between words.
    final int DAYS_IN_A_WEEK = 7;
  ```
Speaking of CONSTANTS…

- If there is a value that we will be using that will never have to change while our program is running, it should really be stored in a meaningful CONSTANT.
- Even if you only plan to use it ONE TIME we want you to do this.
- Even if it is a simple "flag" condition (type 1 for cat, type 2 for dog, …) we want named constants like
  
  ```java
  final int CAT_CHOICE = 1;
  ...
  if (userInput == CAT_CHOICE) { ...
  ```

Other formatting conventions…

- Use placement of braces { } as you have seen in the posted full examples.
- Use indenting similar to what you have seen in my posted examples.
  - If in doubt, Eclipse can help you if you highlight your code and then press Control+I (it will autofix your indentation).
- Don’t have any lines that are longer than 80 characters long (that includes spacing).
  - This is in part because we need to be able to print your projects for parts of grading.
Which are **valid** variable names? (Click all that apply)

0% 1. For
0% 2. success%
0% 3. x
0% 4. i
0% 5. starting_val