

# Lesson 2: Classy Cars (see what I did there?)

## What are we going to learn?

What classes and objects are and how to use them.

How to make methods on classes and call them

## Why are we learning this?

Classes and objects are a key part of programming. Using classes we can reuse code and make lots and lots of objects very quickly.

Objects are basic building blocks of programming.

## Classes

Look at the new code given to you in the example program **carExample**.

## Run it! What happens?

Break down of the code:

Here for the first time we have made a **class**. Our class is called Car.

Classes have definitions, we make instances of classes - called objects.

## Making a Car object:

We need a way to setup the Car when its starts. Like the **setup** function, but for each object.

This is run for each object when we make a new version of it.

Where it's defined - in the **Car** class.

```
public Car(int inStartHozPos, int inStartVertPoz) {
    carWidth = 80;
    carHeight = 40;
    speed = 2;
    carHozPoz = inStartHozPos;
    carVertPoz = inStartVertPoz;
    redAmount = 255;
}
```

This happens when we make a new Car, the same way we make a new **List**. We provide parameters - like when we call **ellipse**. Using the following code:

```
Car newCar = new Car(20, 60);
```

## Tasks to get used to constructors and making new cars:

Change the code so that:

- The car starts at a different position. (This code **is not** in the Car class)
  - Change the starting horizontal position
  - Change the starting vertical position

- When the car moves - where does it move from? Does that change? Why?
- Change the size of the car. (This code **is** in the Car class)
- Change the `speed` of the car - what does this affect? (This code **is** in the Car class)  
Where is the `speed` variable used in the Car class?
- Make a second Car object. You need:
  - A new car variable.
  - To call `.drawCar()` on that in the `draw` method.
    - What happens when you don't do that?
  - Is the speed of this second Car the same as the first car? What about the size?

## Objects have variables and functions.

Just like in “normal” programming objects have functions and variables.

Objects have **variables** and **functions**. They can **hold data** and **do things**.

*But each object has a different set of variables belonging to it.  
And calling a function on a object does that function on that object.*

You can think of yourself, and everyone in the class as an object:

- You have **variables** (bits of data) eg your: name, age, place of birth etc. These are unique to you. This is **your** data.
- And functions, so you can do stuff. Like wake up, run, walk eat etc. These functions are done by **you**.

## Tasks to get used to variables and functions on cars:

We've already changed one variable on the cars - the speed. And we saw how it was used.

- At the moment our Car class looks a bit weird - there's **only one wheel!** Lets change that! Go into the `drawCarImage()` method in the car class and add code to draw the other wheel. Does this affect all the cars? Why?
- Change the speed of the `exampleCar` object. See the `setSpeed` method in the Car class. It changes the speed variable of the Car. So lets do that in the `void setup` method.

```
exampleCar.setSpeed(5);
```

- What happens now? Does the speed of the second Car change?
- Make **new function** in the Car class! This method will be very like the `setSpeed`, but will be called `setRedAmount`. It will change the `redAmount`. It will take in one number. Before you run it - what do you think it will do?
  - If you feel like it add two more variables: `greenAmount` and `blueAmount`.
  - Change `setRedAmount` to `setCarColour` and now take 3 numbers!
  - Don't forget to use `greenAmount` and `blueAmount` in a `fill` function!
- Lets make a **proper race app!**
  - Use the `setCarSize` method to change the size of each of the Cars. So they both look different. Like we did above with the speed.
  - Make 3rd and 4th Car objects.

- For each car set the **speed to a random number** between 1 and 5.
- Run the app what happens? Does this happen every time?
- Check when a car has finished.
  - check each of the Cars and see if the `carHozPoz` for that car is over the edge of the screen. If so finish the race!
    - Extras:
      - Show an end game screen if a car has won!
      - Get the number of the car that finished first!
      - Add custom image to the background of the app!
      - Make more improvements to the `drawCarImage()` to draw a fancier car. Do you remember how to make curved edges on rectangles? Look up `rect` in the reference guide for hints!