

# Java Polymorphism

Polymorphism means "many forms", and it occurs when we have many classes that are related to each other by inheritance.

Like we specified [Inheritance](#) lets us inherit attributes and methods from another class. **Polymorphism** uses those methods to perform different tasks. This allows us to perform a single action in different ways.

For example, think of a superclass called `Animal` that has a method called `animalSound()`. Subclasses of Animals could be Pigs, Cats, Dogs, Birds - And they also have their own implementation of an animal sound (the pig oinks, and the cat meows, etc.):

## Example

MyMainClass.java

```
class Animal {
    public void animalSound() {
        System.out.println("The animal makes a sound");
    }
}

class Pig extends Animal {
    public void animalSound() {
        System.out.println("The pig says: wee wee");
    }
}

class Dog extends Animal {
    public void animalSound() {
        System.out.println("The dog says: bow wow");
    }
}

class MyMainClass {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Animal myAnimal = new Animal();
        Animal myPig = new Pig();
        Animal myDog = new Dog();

        myAnimal.animalSound();
        myPig.animalSound();
        myDog.animalSound();
    }
}
```

Result:

The animal makes a sound

The pig says: wee wee

The dog says: bow wow