

Random class

An instance of the Random class can be used to generate a stream of random values

1. Create a Random object

2. Use the object to get random values

`nextInt()` returns a random integer

`nextInt(max)` returns a random value in `[0, max)`

`nextDouble` returns a random value in `[0.0, 1.0)`

`nextBoolean()` returns a random value from `[true, false]`

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code to display a random Rock-Paper-Scissors:

```
// three outcomes, all equally likely
Random rand = new Random();
switch(rand.nextInt(3)) {
case 0:
    System.out.println("Rock");
    break;
case 1:
    System.out.println("Paper");
    break;
case 2:
    System.out.println("Scissors");
    break;
}
```

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code to display a random coin toss:

```
// two-sided coin: heads/tails
Random rand = new Random();
switch(rand.nextInt(2)) {
case 0:
    System.out.println("Heads");
    break;
case 1:
    System.out.println("Tails");
    break;}
}
```

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ASIDE: What does a random number generator look like?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linear_congruential_generator

$\text{next} \leftarrow (a * \text{previous} + c) \bmod m$

Java: $\text{next} \leftarrow (25214903917 * \text{previous} + 11) \bmod 2^{31}$
uses 48-bit values at each iteration but returns
the 32 most significant bits

Example 2: Simulate tossing a coin 100 times

```
public class TossCoin
{
public static void main ( String [] args )
{
    int heads = 0;
    System.out.print("\ n100 tosses : ");
    Random g = new Random ( ) ;
    for (int i=0; i<100; i++)
        if( g.nextBoolean() ) heads ++;
        System.out.println("\ nHeads : "+ heads
        +"\ nTails : "+(100 - heads ) ) ;
    }
}
```