

composition an organized collection of components interacting to achieve a coherent, common behavior.

## Why compose classes?

Permits a “Lego block” approach to design and implementation:

- Each object captures one reusable concept.

- Composition conveys design intent clearly.

Improves readability of code.

Promotes reuse of existing implementation components.

Simplifies propagation of change throughout a design or an implementation.

## Association (acquaintance)

Example: a database object may be associated with a file stream object.

The database object is “acquainted” with the file stream and may use its public interface to accomplish certain tasks.

Acquaintance may be one-way or two-way.

Association is managed by having a “handle” on the other object.

Associated objects have independent existence (as opposed to one being a sub-part of the other).

Objects have "meaning" apart from their association.

Sometimes referred to as the “knows-a” relationship.

The objects that will be involved are created independently by the driver code.

The driver code "introduces the objects" by passing one object, or its address, to the other object which stores a handle (pointer or reference) to maintain the association.

Association is generally established dynamically (at run-time), although the design of one, or both, of the classes must make a provision for establishing and maintaining the association.

An association can also be implemented as an object, but that is not required for most abstractions.

```
public class DisplayableNumber {
    private int          count = 0;
    private PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter( System.out );

    public DisplayableNumber(int init, PrintWriter where) {
        count = init;
        out = where;
    }
    public void showIn(PrintWriter setOut) {
        out = setOut;
    }
    public void show() {
        out.print( count );
    }
    public void reset(int newValue) {
        count = newValue;
    }
    public int  value() {
        return count;
    }
}
```

Here, the `DisplayableNumber` has the responsibility for maintaining the association with a particular output stream, and gives the user the ability to set or change the targeted stream as desired.

```
DisplayableNumber counter;           // default association

PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter("Scores.data");
DisplayableNumber score(1, out);    // explicit association

score.reset(score.value() + 1);
score.show();

counter.showIn(out);                // reset association
```

Note the independence of the `DisplayableNumber` object and the associated stream objects.

Consider:

```
DisplayableNumber counter;           // default association  
  
counter.showIn(null);                // reset association  
counter.show();                       // really bad. . .
```

Here, the invocation of `show()` on `counter` should result in a runtime violation, as a `null` pointer will be dereferenced.

The issues that usually arise when pointers/references are used may arise with an association between objects. It is generally going to be the responsibility of the "invoking" object to be sure that an association actually exists before attempting to exploit it.

Here, `counter` fails to do that.

## static

association cannot change. It is usually established via an object constructor, and there is no mutator function that would allow it to be modified.

## dynamic

association uses method(s) that allow changing who is associated with the object. Initial association may still be established at construction.

### Consider:

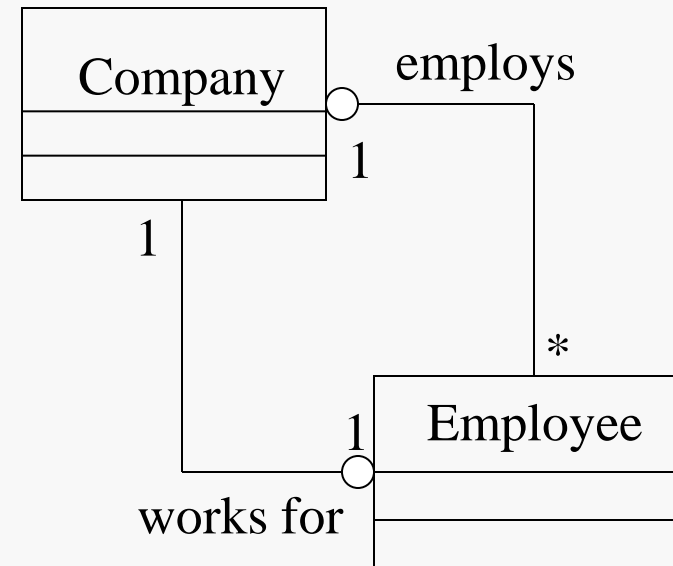
- the relationship between the `CirculationDesk` and the `Catalog` objects in the library system
- the relationship between a `DisplayableNumber` object and a stream

In a class diagram, an association is represented by a line with a circle at the boundary of the object storing the association:

The association arrow may be labeled with a brief description of the logical relationship the association represents.

The head and terminus of the association arrow may be labeled with integers or an asterisk, indicating the number of objects involved in each side of the association.

We will call these the multiplicity values.





Not every relationship is one-to-one.

Specify cardinalities of relationships by numbers/symbols at ends of association arrows.

Possibilities:

1:1	one to one
1:2	one to two
1:0...n	one to from 0 to n
1:*	one to any number (including none)
2:2	two to two
m:n	m to n
*:*	any number to any number

In some situations, one object may "register" itself with another, establishing an association dynamically.

How can an object provide a pointer to itself??

```
public class Passenger {
    private int floor;    // passenger knows what floor he's on

    public void board(Elevator otis) {
        if ( otis.onFloor() == floor ) // elevator can say what floor
                                        // it's on
            otis.addPassenger(this);    // passenger registers himself
    }
}
```