

Kotlin®

Notes for Professionals

Chapter 2: Basics of Kotlin

This topic covers the basics of Kotlin for beginners.

Section 2.1: Basic examples

1. The Unit return type declaration is optional for functions. The following codes are equivalent:

```
fun printHello(name: String?): Unit {  
    if (name != null) {  
        println("Hello: $name")  
    }  
}  
  
fun printHello(name: String?) {  
    ...  
}
```

2. Single Expression functions: When a function returns a single expression, the curly brace body is specified after = symbol.

```
fun double(x: Int): Int = x * 2
```

Explicitly declaring the return type is optional when this can be inferred by the compiler.

```
fun double(x: Int) = x * 2
```

3. String interpolation: Using string values is easy.

```
In Java:  
int num = 10;  
String s = "1 * 10 = " + 1;
```

```
In Kotlin:  
val num = 10  
val s = "1 * $num"
```

4. In Kotlin, the type system distinguishes between references that can hold null and those that cannot (non-null references). For example, a regular variable of type String:

```
var a: String = "abc"
```

```
a = null // compilation error
```

To allow nulls, we can declare a variable as nullable string, written String?:

```
var b: String? = "abc"
```

```
b = null // ok
```

5. In Kotlin, == actually checks for equality of values. By convention, an equals() method is used to check for equality of objects.

```
a?.equals(b) ?? (b == null)
```

Chapter 4: Arrays

Section 4.1: Generic Arrays

Generic arrays in Kotlin are represented by Array<T>.

To create an empty array, use emptyArray<T>() factory function:

```
val empty = emptyArray<String>()
```

To create an array with given size and initial values, use the constructor:

```
var strings = Array<String>(size = 5, init = { index, _ -> "Item $index" })  
println(strings[0]) // prints "Item #0", Item #1, Item #2, Item #3, Item #4"  
println(strings[2]) // prints 3
```

Arrays have get(index: Int): T and set(index: Int, value: T) functions:

```
strings.set(2, "changedItem")  
println(strings.get(2)) // prints "changedItem"  
  
// You can use subscripting as well:  
strings[2] = "changedItem"  
println(strings[2]) // prints "changedItem"
```

Section 4.2: Arrays of Primitives

These types do not inherit from Array<T> to avoid boxing, however, they have the same attributes and methods.

| Kotlin type | Factory function | JVM type |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| BooleanArray | booleanArrayOf(true, false) | boolean[] |
| ByteArray | byteArrayOf(1, 2, 3) | byte[] |
| CharArray | charArrayOf('a', 'b', 'c') | char[] |
| DoubleArray | doubleArrayOf(1.0, 2.0) | double[] |
| FloatArray | floatArrayOf(1.0f, 2.0f) | float[] |
| IntArray | intArrayOf(1, 2, 3) | int[] |
| LongArray | longArrayOf(1, 2, 3) | long[] |
| ShortArray | shortArrayOf(1, 2, 3) | short[] |

Section 4.3: Create an array

```
val a = arrayOf(1, 2, 3) // creates an Array<Int> of size 3 containing [1, 2, 3]
```

Section 4.4: Create an array using a closure

```
val a = Array<Int> { 1 -> 1 * 2 } // creates an Array<Int> of size 3 containing [0, 2, 4]
```

Section 4.5: Create an uninitialized array

```
val a = arrayOfNulls<Int>(3) // creates an Array<Int?> of [null, null, null]
```

The returned array will always have a nullable type. Arrays of non-nullable items can't be created unless you use the arrayOf() function.

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Chapter 10: Loops in Kotlin

Section 10.1: Looping over iterables

You can loop over any Iterable by using the standard for-loop:

```
val list = listOf("Hello", "World", "...")  
for (str in list) {  
    println(str)  
}
```

Lots of things in Kotlin are Iterable, like number ranges:

```
for (i in 0..9) {  
    println(i)  
}
```

If you need an index while iterating:

```
for (index, element) in iterable.withIndex() {  
    println("Element at index $index")  
}
```

There is also a functional approach to iterating included in the standard library, without apparent language constructs, using the forEach() function:

```
iterable.forEach {  
    println(it.toString())  
}
```

It in this example implicitly holds the current element, see Lambda Functions

Section 10.2: Repeat an action x times

```
repeat(10) { i -> {  
    println("This line will be printed 10 times")  
    println("We are on the $i * 10, loop iteration")  
}
```

Section 10.3: Break and continue

Break and continue keywords work like they do in other languages.

```
while (true) {  
    if (condition) {  
        continue  
    }  
    loop body  
}
```

```
if (condition) {  
    break // will exit the loop completely  
}
```

If you have nested loops, you can label the loop statements and qualify the break and continue statements to specify which loop you want to continue or break.

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