

Complete and consistent interfaces

Guideline 6: Give classes a complete interface.

A class should have a full set of methods so that it is as reusable in as many situations as possible. Suppose we have a GUI component that has a `setSelected()` method that highlights itself. What other method should it have?

The component should probably also have an `isSelected()` boolean function that tells whether the component is currently highlighted.

Guideline 7: A well-formed class has a consistent interface.

By “consistent,” we mean that the methods that do similar things should be laid out similarly.

Suppose a class maintains and manipulates an indexed collection of people. It has

- a method that sets the *i*th person’s name and
- a method that sets the *i*th person’s age.

The two methods should have similar names and similar arguments in the same order.

Suppose one signature is `setName(String name, int index)`. What should the other be?