

Athletes

[Here is a video walkthrough of the solution.](#)

Suppose we have the Person, Athlete, and SoccerPlayer classes defined below.

```
1 class Person {
2     void speakTo(Person other) { System.out.println("kudos"); }
3     void watch(SoccerPlayer other) { System.out.println("wow"); }
4 }
5
6 class Athlete extends Person {
7     void speakTo(Athlete other) { System.out.println("take notes"); }
8     void watch(Athlete other) { System.out.println("game on"); }
9 }
10
11 class SoccerPlayer extends Athlete {
12     void speakTo(Athlete other) { System.out.println("respect"); }
13     void speakTo(Person other) { System.out.println("hmph"); }
14 }
```

- (a) For each line below, write what, if anything, is printed after its execution. Write CE if there is a compiler error and RE if there is a runtime error. If a line errors, continue executing the rest of the lines.

```
1 Person itai = new Person();
2
3 SoccerPlayer shivani = new Person();
4
5 Athlete sohum = new SoccerPlayer();
6
7 Person jack = new Athlete();
8
9 Athlete anjali = new Athlete();
10
11 SoccerPlayer chirasree = new SoccerPlayer();
12
13 itai.watch(chirasree);
14
15 jack.watch(sohum);
16
17 itai.speakTo(sohum);
18
19 jack.speakTo(anjali);
20
21 anjali.speakTo(chirasree);
22
23 sohum.speakTo(itai);
24
```

```

25 chirasree.speakTo((SoccerPlayer) sohum);
26
27 sohum.watch(itai);
28
29 sohum.watch((Athlete) itai);
30
31 ((Athlete) jack).speakTo(anjali);
32
33 ((SoccerPlayer) jack).speakTo(chirasree);
34
35 ((Person) chirasree).speakTo(itai);

```

Solution:

```

Person itai = new Person();
SoccerPlayer shivani = new Person(); // CE
Athlete sohum = new SoccerPlayer();
Person jack = new Athlete();
Athlete anjali = new Athlete();
SoccerPlayer chirasree = new SoccerPlayer();
itai.watch(chirasree); // wow
jack.watch(sohum); // CE
itai.speakTo(sohum); // kudos
jack.speakTo(anjali); // kudos
anjali.speakTo(chirasree); // take notes
sohum.speakTo(itai); // hmph
chirasree.speakTo((SoccerPlayer) sohum); // respect
sohum.watch(itai); // CE
sohum.watch((Athlete) itai); // RE
((Athlete) jack).speakTo(anjali); // take notes
((SoccerPlayer) jack).speakTo(chirasree); // RE
((Person) chirasree).speakTo(itai); // hmph

```

Explanation:

Line 3: Person is a superclass of SoccerPlayer, so it can't be assigned to a variable of type SoccerPlayer. (In general, an object can be assigned to a variable that is the same class or a superclass of it).

Line 13: itai has the same static and dynamic type (Person) and Person.watch is allowed to take in a SoccerPlayer argument, so we use that method and print wow.

Line 15: jack has static type Person and dynamic type Athlete. sohum has static type Athlete (we only care about the static type of arguments). During compile time, we choose Person.watch, which can only take in a SoccerPlayer. Athlete is a superclass of SoccerPlayer, so this method cannot take in an Athlete and a compilation error results.

Line 17: sohum has static type Athlete, and itai has static and dynamic type Person, so we must use Person.speakTo. Person.speakTo takes in a Person, a superclass of sohum's type, so this method works.

Line 19: jack has static type Person, dynamic type Athlete. anjali has static type Athlete. During compile time, we choose the method signature `speakTo(Person other)`. During runtime, we check the class of jack's dynamic type. Athlete does not have a method matching our earlier signature, so we use our earlier method and print kudos.

Line 21: anjali has static and dynamic type Athlete. chirasree has static type SoccerPlayer. The only method we can use is `Athlete.speakTo`. This is fine because SoccerPlayer is a subclass of Athlete, so we print take notes.

Line 23: sohum has static type Athlete and dynamic type SoccerPlayer. itai has static type Person. During compilation, we first go to Athlete. However, `Athlete.speakTo` cannot take in a Person, so we go to its parent, Person, and choose the signature `speakTo(Person other)`. Then, during runtime, we check sohum's dynamic type, SoccerPlayer. `SoccerPlayer.speakTo(Person other)` matches our signature, so we use that method and print hmph.

Line 25: chirasree has static and dynamic type SoccerPlayer. We call the `SoccerPlayer.speakTo` method with an argument of type SoccerPlayer, which selects the most specific signature possible—`SoccerPlayer.speakTo(Athlete other)`, printing respect.

Line 27: sohum has static type Athlete and dynamic type SoccerPlayer. itai has static type Person. During compile time, we go to Athlete, but `Athlete.watch(Athlete other)` cannot handle an argument of type Person, so we go to its parent. However, `Person.watch(SoccerPlayer other)` also cannot handle an argument of type Person, so this results in a compilation error.

Line 29: The compiler "trusts" that the cast of itai to Athlete is correct; however, during runtime, casting a Person to an Athlete fails, resulting in a runtime exception.

Line 31: By casting, we tell the compiler to view jack's static type as Athlete. Thus, during compilation, we choose the signature `Athlete.speakTo(Athlete other)`. Then, during runtime, jack has dynamic type Athlete, so the cast is valid, and we print take notes.

Line 33: Jack has dynamic type Athlete, which cannot be downcast to a subclass SoccerPlayer.

Line 35: During compilation, we treat chirasree as a Person and choose the method signature `speakTo(Person other)`. Then, during runtime, we see that chirasree has dynamic type SoccerPlayer, so we choose the `SoccerPlayer.speakTo(Person other)` method that matches our earlier signature, and print hmph.

- (b) You may have noticed that `jack.watch(sohum)` produces a compile error. Interestingly, we can resolve this error by **adding casting!** List two fixes that would resolve this error. The first fix should print wow. The second fix should print game on. Each fix may cast either jack or sohum.
- 1.
 - 2.

Solution: [Here](#) is a video walkthrough of the solutions for this part and the next.

1. To print `wow`, we can cast `sohum` as a `SoccerPlayer`, resulting in the function call `jack.watch((SoccerPlayer) sohum);`
 2. To print `game on`, we can cast `jack` as an `Athlete`, resulting in the function call `((Athlete) jack).watch(sohum);`
- (c) Now let's try resolving as many of the remaining errors from above by **adding or removing casting!** For each error that can be resolved with casting, write the modified function call below. Note that you cannot resolve a compile error by creating a runtime error! Also note that not all, or any, of the errors may be resolved.

Solution:

```
jack.speakTo(chirasree);
```

Explanation: This resolves the casting error on line 33. `jack` has static type `person`, and `Person.speakTo(Person other)` can handle an argument of type `SoccerPlayer`, so no compilation errors are produced either.