Australian National University

Interfaces

03

Structured Programming 1110/1140/6710

Interfaces

An interface can be thought of as a contract.
A class which implements an interface *must* provide the specified functionality. Compared to a class, an interface:

- Uses `interface` keyword rather than `class`
- Cannot be instantiated (can’t be created with `new`)
- Can *only* contain constants, method signatures (not the bodies), nested types
  - (Java 8+ allows `default` and `static` methods)
- Classes implement interfaces via `implements` keyword

Interfaces as Types

An interface can be used as a type

- A variable declared with an interface type can hold a reference to a object of any class that implements that interface.