Adding comments

When programming in any language, it is good practice to add comments to program code to explain each particular section. This makes the code more easily understood by others, and by yourself when revisiting a piece of code after a period of absence.

In Java programming, comments can be added across multiple lines between /* and */ comment identifiers, or on a single line after a // comment identifier. Anything appearing between /* and */, or on a line after //, is completely ignored by the **javac** compiler.

When comments have been added to the **Constants.java** program, described opposite, the source code might look like this:

```
/*
        A program to demonstrate constant variables.
*/

class Constants
{
        public static void main( String args[] )
        {
                // Constant score values.
                final int TOUCHDOWN = 6 ;
                final int CONVERSION = 1 ;
                final int FIELDGOAL = 3 ;

                // Calculate points scored.
                int td , pat , fg , total ;
                td = 4 * TOUCHDOWN ;            // 4x6=24
                pat = 3 * CONVERSION ;          // 3x1= 3
                fg  = 2 * FIELDGOAL ;           // 2x3= 6
                total = ( td + pat + fg ) ;     // 24+3+6=33

                // Output calculated total.
                System.out.println( "Score: " + total ) ;
        }
}
```
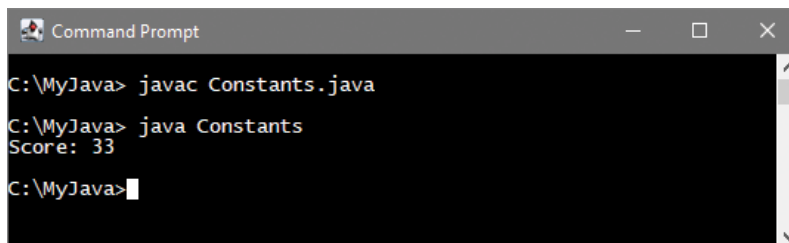
Saved with comments, the program compiles and runs as normal:

Constants.java
(commented)

You can add a statement that attempts to change the value of a constant, then try to recompile the program to see the resulting error message.

```
Command Prompt                          —    □    ✕

C:\MyJava> javac Constants.java

C:\MyJava> java Constants
Score: 33

C:\MyJava>
```