Common Programming Case Styles
Definitions and common uses in Java/Android development

DEEP DIVE
Coding Bootcamps

`UpperCamelCase` (`PascalCase`)

- One or more words in a single identifier, no spaces or other delimiters between words, each word starting with a capital letter.
- Class & interface names[1]; source code file names[1] (extensions are always lowercase); XML element names[2].

`camelCase` (`lowerCamelCase`)

- One or more words in a single identifier, no spaces or other delimiters between words, each word after the first starting with a capital letter.
- Method, field, parameter, & local variable names[1]; XML attribute names[2]; JSON property names; CSS style names.

`UPPER_SNAKE_CASE` (`SCREAMING_SNAKE_CASE`)

- One or more words in a single identifier, underscores between words, all letters uppercase.
- Constant (`static final`) field names[1]; SQL keywords and built-in function names.

`snake_case` (`lower_snake_case`, `whispering_snake_case`)

- One or more words in a single identifier, underscores between words, all letters lowercase.
- Package names[1]; SQL identifiers[3]; Android resource names & IDs[4]; Java property keys; JSON property names; file & directory names.

`kebab-case` (`spinal-case`, `lisp-case`)

- One or more words in a single identifier, hyphens between words, all letters lowercase.
- URIs; CSS style names; file, directory, & repository names[5].

1. While not required by the compiler, these conventions are followed almost universally, and are included in the Oracle certification exams. One common variation is in package names, which are always lowercase, but are restricted in some style guides to use no separators between words.

   In practice, acronyms & initialisms—especially those with 4 or more characters—are generally treated as single words; however, some 2–3 character initialisms are treated as multiple words when written in `camelCase` or `UpperCamelCase`, but as single words when written in `snake_case` or `UPPER_SNAKE_CASE`. The `HttpURLConnection` class name is an example of this practice gray area.

2. While these are common casing styles for XML, the XML standard doesn't require them. Each XML schema, DTD, or application may define its own elements and attributes.

3. Some dialects of SQL are case-sensitive with respect to identifiers—but not all. In part to reduce potential portability issues resulting from these differences, the use of `lower_snake_case` for table and column names is included in many style guides. The default Spring Data configuration employs a `camelCase-to-lower_snake_case` physical naming strategy.

4. This is required by the Android SDK, with some exceptions—e.g. style names (not constrained, but often `UpperCamelCase`) and color names (not constrained; often `camelCase`).

5. `kebab-case` is recommended for file, directory, and repository names that are mapped directly to URI path components.