

When should I use "this." in my Java code?

Question

```
public class B extends A {
    MCParticle mcParticle;

    B ( MCParticle particle){
        this.mcParticle = particle;
    }
}
```

As I understand things, the "this." is redundant. There is no variable named mcParticle in A or in any of the classes that it extends or interfaces that it implements.

Answer

It is true that the this. is redundant, but consider this similar code:

```
public class B extends A{
    MCParticle mcParticle;

    B ( MCParticle particle){
        particle = particle;
    }
}
```

this code will compile, since it is perfectly legal to reassign a parameter in Java, but it will certainly not do what you want it to do. For this reason people normally write

```
public class B extends A{
    MCParticle mcParticle;

    B ( MCParticle particle){
        this.particle = particle;
    }
}
```

which will not compile (but would compile if the member variable was called particle).