

## Pseudocode – It’s just a Tool, but WHAT A TOOL!

### What is it?

A way to structure your thinking so you can develop an algorithm to solve a problem.

It’s written in English (or French, Cantonese, Flemish, Russian; any HUMAN COMMUNICATION LANGUAGE).

We’ll use English at NHS.

In other words, it’s computer-language-independent or computer-language-agnostic.

It is specific enough that you can take the pseudocode and develop a computer-language solution to the problem. Your code comes from your pseudocode. Not the other way around!

### What it’s not?

It’s not a computer language.

### Parts of Pseudocode:

Verbs: Repeat-End Repeat, Set, Add, Subtract, Multiply, Divide, Raise to Power of, Square

+ - / are acceptable. \* is not acceptable for a math operation or pointer declaration/reference

Decisions: If – else – end if

Trivial calculations need not be elaborated. Example: “Calculate the Average” is OK.

“Convert Celsius to Fahrenheit” is NOT OKAY. Specify the formula.

We don’t say ‘print’. We say, “display “Your pay is”, thePay.

### Not parts of Pseudocode:

For, Do (as a repetition structure), Switch-Case, continue, \*, \*\*, ^, =, ; {} and other computer language specific commands/definitions/structures, print, println

No type declarations. Pseudocode is type-agnostic. Just start using the variable or data structure

**Look at the exemplar on the next page. It’s PDF 46 of your JavaText2013. This is the gold standard for pseudocode in the Haus Of Payne ☺**

All code structures are INDENTED to show scope of each dependency where they exist.

### How do I define a Method?

```
procedure calcTriangleArea(list the required parameters separated by commas)
```

```
    .... You method code here
```

```
end procedure
```

### What about Graphical User Interface?

You just have a line, “Build Graphical User Interface” or “Display GUI” etc. No line-by-line specifics.

The bottom line: If it’s a computer-language-specific structure, command, expression or convention, it DOES NOT BELONG IN PSEUDOCODE.

Now go forth and pseudo-ize your world!