Casts with Reference Types (contd..)

> Person p = new Student(“Harry”, 2011);  
> p.getName()  
    "Harry"  
> p.getYearOfGraduation()  

Error no getYearOfGraduation() in Person

- Illegal because “p” can only execute information from Person class  
  - Person class has no info about getYearOfGraduation()  
- The solution here is to use type-casting.

Casts with Reference Types (contd..)

- If, for some reason, you happen to know that “p” does in fact refer to a Student, you can use the type cast  
  - Cast tells the computer to treat “p” as if it were actually of type Student  
  - i.e. ((Student)p). getYearOfGraduation();  

- To make sure that p is referring to Student use instanceof operator  
  - If is not then you will get a runtime error  
    if(!v instanceof Student ){  
      ((Student)p). getYearOfGraduation();  
    }