Class Methods

1. in Pharo, everything is an object
2. objects can receive messages
3. classes are objects too

Classes can receive messages
Examples

Time now
> 9:18:36.304688 pm

The message now is sent to the class Time

Date today
> 29 July 2015

The message today is sent to the class Date
Examples

FileLocator workingDirectory

ZnEasy getPng: 'http://pharo.org/web/files/pharo.png'

ZnServer startDefaultOn: 8080
Class Methods are Defined on Class Side

Note the Class button pressed!
Common Mistake

Counter class >> withValue: anInteger
  self new
  value: anInteger;
  yourself

Counter withValue: 10 returns the class Counter instead of a new instance
Why?

Counter class >> withValue: anInteger
  self new
  value: anInteger;
  yourself

is equivalent to

Counter class >> withValue: anInteger
  self new
  value: anInteger;
  yourself.
^ self

self here is the class Counter (the receiver of the message)
Solution

Counter class >> withValue: anInteger

\^ self new
value: anInteger;
yourself
Summary

- Classes are objects
- Messages can be sent to classes too
- Class-side methods are no different from other methods
- Most class-side methods create new instances
- To define a class-side method, press the class button