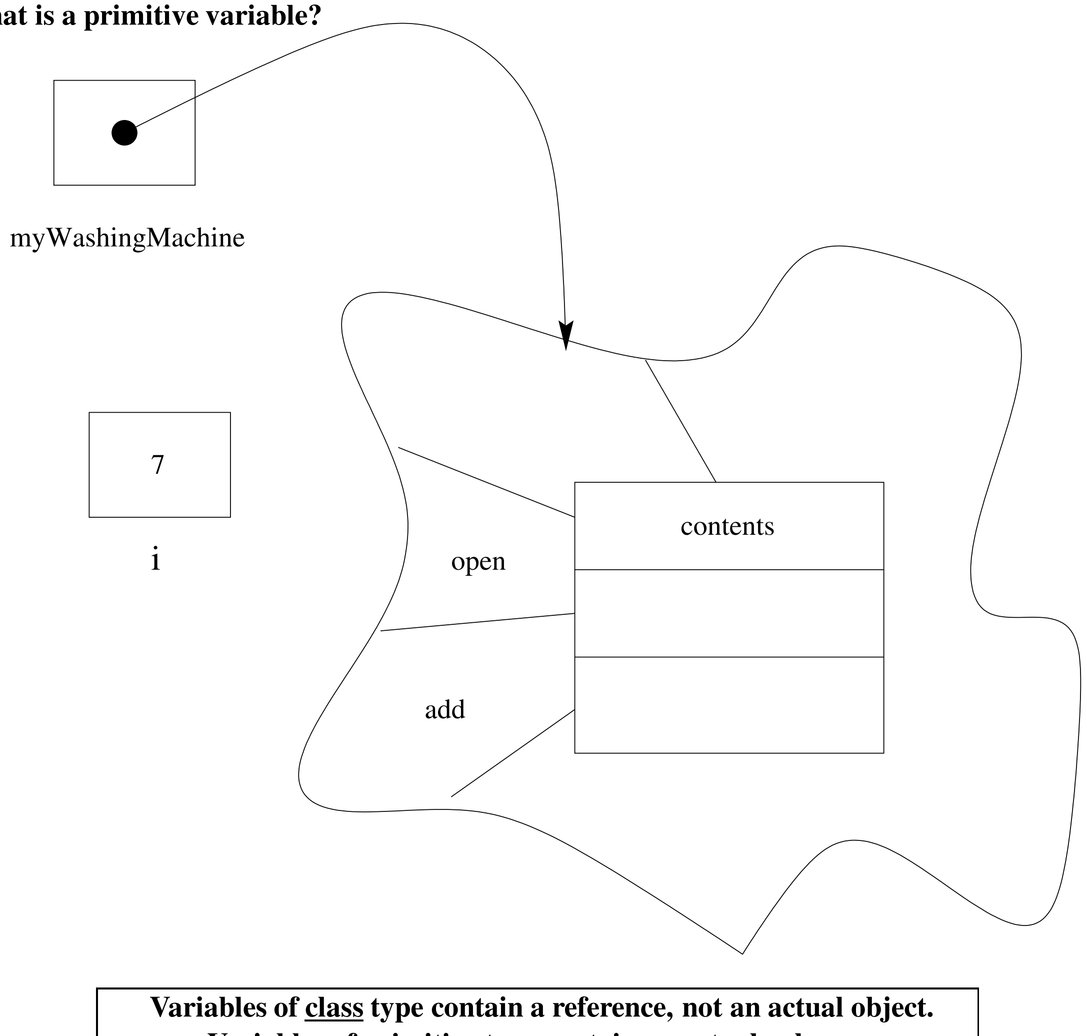
Figure 5.3 The basic Java data types.

There are two major categories of data types:

1. classes, for example
   String s;
   BufferedReader keyb;
   WashingMachine myWashingMachine;

2. primitive types, for example
   int i;
   double x;
   char t;

What is a primitive variable?



Variables of class type contain a reference, not an actual object. **Variables of primitive type contain an actual value.**