



# async / await

---

.NET

*Asynchronous programming enables code that reads like a sequence of statements but executes in a much more complicated order based on external resource allocation and when tasks complete.*

[HTTPS://DOCS.MICROSOFT.COM/EN-US/DOTNET/CSHARP/PROGRAMMING-GUIDE/CONCEPTS/ASYNC/](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/programming-guide/concepts/async/)

# When should you use `async/await`?

---

Any time you are accessing the Web, a database, or working with files/images, you should do it asynchronously.

This enables you to continue with unrelated actions while waiting for the result of the asynchronous action.

# The asynchronous programming model

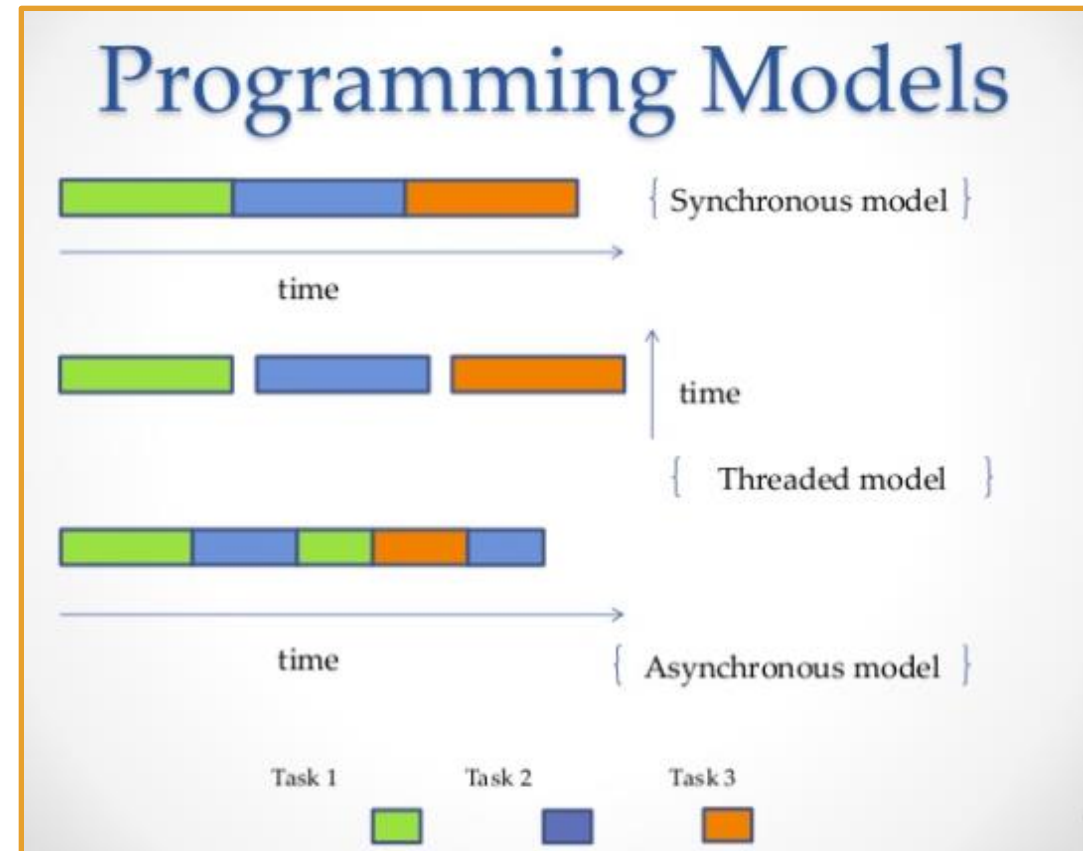
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/programming-guide/concepts/async/task-asynchronous-programming-model>  
<https://medium.com/velotio-perspectives/an-introduction-to-asynchronous-programming-in-python-af0189a88bbb>

**Asynchronous programming** is used to avoid performance bottlenecks and enhance the overall responsiveness of an application. C# 5 introduced **async** programming.

The compiler does most of the syntactical work so that the code can retain a synchronous-like structure.

Asynchrony is essential for potentially blocking code. If an activity is blocked in a synchronous process, the entire application must wait.

In an asynchronous process, the application can continue with other work until the blocking task finishes.



# ‘async’ Modifier

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/language-reference/keywords/async>

<https://www.codeproject.com/Articles/1054993/async-await-What-You-Should-Know-Updated>

---

- Use the **async** modifier to specify that a method is asynchronous.
- An **async** method uses the **await** operator to continue doing work without blocking the caller's thread.
- An **async** method runs synchronously until it reaches its first **await** expression, at which point it is suspended until the **awaited** task is complete. In the meantime, control returns to the caller of the async method.
- The **async** keyword is contextual in that it's a keyword only when it modifies a method. In all other contexts, it's interpreted as an identifier.
- An **async** method can't declare any in, ref or out parameters, nor can it have a **reference** return value.
- The **async** method can call methods that have in, ref or out parameters.

# async/await

[https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/programming-guide/concepts/async/task-asynchronous-programming-model#BKMK\\_HowtoWriteanAsyncMethod](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/programming-guide/concepts/async/task-asynchronous-programming-model#BKMK_HowtoWriteanAsyncMethod)

---

By using the keywords **async** and **await**, you can use resources in .NET Framework and .NET Core to create an asynchronous method.

- The method signature includes the **async** modifier.
- The return type is **Task<int>** or **Task**.
- Conventionally, the method name ends in ...Async.
- **GetStringAsync** returns a **Task<string>**.
- When you await the **task**, you'll get a string (**urlContents**).
- Before **awaiting** the task, you can do work that doesn't rely on the string from **GetStringAsync**.

```
async Task<int> AccessTheWebAsync()
{
    // You need to add a reference to System.Net.Http to declare client.
    var client = new HttpClient();

    // GetStringAsync returns a Task<string>. That means that when you await the
    // task you'll get a string (urlContents).
    Task<string> getStringTask = client.GetStringAsync("https://docs.microsoft.com/dotnet");

    // You can do work here that doesn't rely on the string from GetStringAsync.
    DoIndependentWork();

    // The await operator suspends AccessTheWebAsync.
    // - AccessTheWebAsync can't continue until getStringTask is complete.
    // - Meanwhile, control returns to the caller of AccessTheWebAsync.
    // - Control resumes here when getStringTask is complete.
    // - The await operator then retrieves the string result from getStringTask.
    string urlContents = await getStringTask;

    // The return statement specifies an integer result.
    // Any methods that are awaiting AccessTheWebAsync retrieve the length value.
    return urlContents.Length;
}
```



# 'async' Modifier

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/language-reference/keywords/async>

---

- An **async** method can have only the return types **Task** or **Task<TResult>**
- An **async** method can't declare any **in**, **ref** or **out** parameters, nor can it return a reference value, but it can call methods that have such parameters.
- Only **async** methods can call other **async** methods.
- By convention, **async** methods have and await statement in them.

```
public static async Task<string> ShowTodaysInfo()
{
    string ret = $"Today is {DateTime.Today:D}\n" +
                "Today's hours of leisure: " +
                $"{await GetLeisureHours()}";
    return ret;
}

static async Task<int> GetLeisureHours()
{
    // Task.FromResult is a placeholder for actual work that returns a string.
    var today = await Task.FromResult<string>(DateTime.Now.DayOfWeek.ToString());

    // The method then can process the result in some way.
    int leisureHours;
    if (today.First() == 'S')
        leisureHours = 16;
    else
        leisureHours = 5;

    return leisureHours;
}

// The example displays output like the following:
// Today is Wednesday, May 24, 2017
// Today's hours of leisure: 5
```

# Async vs parallelism.

---