

# Semaphore in Java

## Semaphore

Java's semaphore can be **releas()-ed** or **acquire()-d** for signalling amongst threads. However the important call out when using semaphores is to make sure that the permits acquired should equal permits returned. Take a look at the following example, where a runtime exception causes a deadlock.

```
1  import java.util.concurrent.Semaphore;
2
3  class Demonstration {
4
5      public static void main(String[] args) {
6          IncorrectSemaphoreExample example = new IncorrectSemaphoreExample();
7      }
8  }
9
10 class IncorrectSemaphoreExample {
11
12     public static void example() {
13
14         final Semaphore semaphore = new Semaphore(1);
15
16         Thread badThread = new Thread() {
17
18             public void run() {
19
20                 while (true) {
21
22                     try {
23                         semaphore.acquire();
24                     } catch (InterruptedException e) {
25                         // handle exception
26                     }
27
28                     // Thread v
29                     // exceptio
30                     throw new RuntimeException();
31                 }
32             }
33         };
34     }
35 }
```



The above code when run would time out and show that one of the threads threw an exception. The code is never able to release the semaphore causing the other thread to block forever. Whenever using locks or semaphores, remember to unlock or release the semaphore in a **finally** block. The corrected version appears below.

```
1 import java.util.concurrent.Semaphore;
2
3 class Demonstration {
4
5     public static void main(String[] args) {
6         CorrectSemaphoreExample example = new CorrectSemaphoreExample();
7     }
8 }
9
10 class CorrectSemaphoreExample {
11
12     public static void example() {
13
14         final Semaphore semaphore = new Semaphore(1);
15
16         Thread badThread = new Thread() {
17
18             public void run() {
19
20                 while (true) {
21
22                     try {
23                         semaphore.acquire();
24                         try {
25                             // do work
26                         } catch (Exception e) {
27                             // handle exception
28                         }
29                     } finally {
30                         semaphore.release();
31                     }
32                 }
33             }
34         };
35     }
36 }
```



Running the above code will print the **Exiting Program** statement.

