

Multithreading in Java

Java Multithreading – Introduction

1. What is Multithreading?

Multithreading is a core concept in Java that allows multiple parts of a program (called threads) to run **concurrently**. Each thread runs independently and shares the same memory space.

It is part of Java's java.lang package through the Thread class and Runnable interface.

Real-life Analogy

Think of your computer as a **restaurant kitchen**:

- A **thread** is like a **chef**.
- Each chef (thread) can cook (execute) a task at the same time.
- All chefs share the same kitchen (memory/resource).

So multithreading = multiple chefs working in the same kitchen = faster task completion

Why Use Multithreading?

- Increases performance by executing multiple tasks at once.
 - Makes the application **responsive** (e.g., a UI app doesn't freeze during background tasks).
 - Useful for **CPU-intensive** or **I/O-intensive** operations.
 - Efficient utilization of system resources.
-

□ Key Concepts

| Concept | Description |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thread | A lightweight process; smallest unit of execution |
| Main Thread | The default thread in any Java program |
| Concurrency | Tasks are progressing at the same time |
| Parallelism | Tasks are actually running at the same time (multi-core CPU) |
| Thread Lifecycle | The stages a thread goes through (New → Runnable → Running → Blocked → Dead) |

Advantages of Multithreading

- Better CPU utilization
- Enhanced performance for large programs
- Better responsiveness (UI apps)
- Simplifies program structure for asynchronous tasks

Challenges of Multithreading

- Difficult to debug
- Risk of **Race conditions** and **Deadlocks**
- Requires careful synchronization

Creating Threads in Java

In Java, **threads** can be created in two main ways:

1. By Extending the Thread Class

You create a new class that **inherits from Thread**, and override its `run()` method with the code you want to execute in the thread.

□ Steps:

1. Create a class extending Thread.

2. Override the run() method.
3. Create an object of the class.
4. Call .start() to begin execution.

❑ **Example:**

```
class MyThread extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Thread running via Thread class");  
    }  
}
```

```
public class TestThread {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        MyThread t1 = new MyThread(); // Create thread object  
        t1.start(); // Start the thread (calls run() internally)  
    }  
}
```

❑ start() method internally calls run(), and allows Java to execute the thread **asynchronously**.

2. By Implementing the Runnable Interface

You define your thread logic in a class that implements Runnable, then pass it to a Thread object.

❑ **Steps:**

1. Create a class implementing Runnable.
2. Override the run() method.
3. Create a Thread object with the Runnable object.
4. Call .start() on the Thread.

❑ **Example:**

```
class MyRunnable implements Runnable {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Thread running via Runnable interface");  
    }  
}
```

```
}  
}  
  
public class TestRunnable {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        MyRunnable obj = new MyRunnable();    // Step 1  
        Thread t1 = new Thread(obj);          // Step 2  
        t1.start();                            // Step 3  
    }  
}
```

☐ Thread vs Runnable

| Feature | Thread Class | Runnable Interface |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Inheritance | Cannot extend any other class | Can extend another class |
| Flexibility | Less flexible | More flexible (preferable in large apps) |
| Memory overhead | More (Thread object + task) | Less |
| Recommended | Not preferred in multi-inheritance cases | Preferred |

☐ When to Use What?

- Use **Runnable** when you want to separate the **task** from the **thread object** or inherit from another class.
 - Use **Thread** when you want **simplicity** and don't need to extend another class.
-

☐ Common Mistake

t1.run(); // ☐ runs in the main thread (not a new thread)
t1.start(); // ☐ starts a new thread

Thread Scheduler in Java

What is a Thread Scheduler?

The **Thread Scheduler** is part of the **Java Virtual Machine (JVM)** responsible for **deciding which thread to run next**, when multiple threads are in a **runnable** state.

❑ It **does not guarantee** the order of thread execution — it is **OS-dependent and JVM-dependent**.

❑ How it Works

When multiple threads are eligible to run, the **scheduler picks one based on a strategy**, such as:

- **Time Sharing** – Threads are given a fixed time slice (quantum) to run.
- **Preemptive Scheduling** – Higher priority threads are given preference and can preempt lower priority threads.

❑ Only one thread executes at a time on a single-core CPU. In multicore systems, threads may run truly in parallel.

❑ Example – Unpredictable Execution Order

```
class DemoThread extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Thread: " + Thread.currentThread().getName());  
    }  
}
```

```
public class ThreadSchedulerExample {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        DemoThread t1 = new DemoThread();  
        DemoThread t2 = new DemoThread();  
        DemoThread t3 = new DemoThread();  
    }  
}
```

```
t1.start();
t2.start();
t3.start();
}
}
```

Output (May vary every time)

Thread: Thread-0

Thread: Thread-2

Thread: Thread-1

This proves that **thread scheduling is not deterministic**.

❑ Thread Priorities in Java

Every Java thread has a **priority** (integer from 1 to 10).

| Priority Constant | Value | Meaning |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Thread.MIN_PRIORITY | 1 | Lowest |
| Thread.NORM_PRIORITY | 5 | Default |
| Thread.MAX_PRIORITY | 10 | Highest |

You can set priorities using:

```
thread.setPriority(Thread.MAX_PRIORITY);
```

Important:

JVM may or may not respect priorities — it's **platform dependent**.

Relationship Between start() and run() Method in Java Threads

The run() Method

The run() method contains the **code that should be executed** in a new thread.

Syntax:

```
public void run() {  
    // task to be performed  
}
```

- Think of run() as the **body of the thread** — the logic that needs to execute.
-

The start() Method

The start() method is responsible for **creating a new thread** in memory and **internally calling the run() method**.

Syntax:

```
thread.start(); // JVM creates a new thread and calls run()
```

- start() triggers the **multithreading mechanism**. It tells the **Thread Scheduler** to execute run() in a new thread.
-

□ Code Example: Proper Way

```
class MyThread extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Thread running: " + Thread.currentThread().getName());  
    }  
}  
  
public class StartVsRun {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
MyThread t1 = new MyThread();
t1.start(); // Correct way to start a new thread

System.out.println("Main Thread: " + Thread.currentThread().getName());
}
}
```

Output:

Main Thread: main
Thread running: Thread-0

☐ Common Mistake: Calling run() Directly

```
t1.run(); // Wrong – runs like a normal method on main thread
```

Output:

Thread running: main
Main Thread: main

- ☐ This does **not create a new thread**, it just calls run() as a regular method.
-

☐ Difference Between start() and run()

| Feature | start() | run() |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Thread Creation | Creates a new thread | No new thread; called in the current thread |
| Method Type | Native method from Thread class | Override to define task |
| Behavior | Executes run() in new thread | Executes run() in same thread |
| Multithreading | Enabled | Not enabled |
| Usage | Should always be used to start threads | Should be overridden to define logic |

☐ Best Practice

- Always use `.start()` to initiate a thread.
- Override `.run()` to define what the thread will do.

What is the Main Thread in Java?

Definition

The **main thread** is the **default thread** that the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) creates automatically when your program starts.

It is the **first thread** of execution in any standalone Java application.

□ Key Points

- It begins execution with the `main(String[] args)` method.
 - All other threads (user-defined threads) are created and started **from this main thread**.
 - It is part of the **Thread Group** named "main".
 - The main thread is **non-daemon**, i.e., JVM will wait for it to finish.
-

□ Example: Viewing Main Thread Details

```
public class MainThreadExample {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Thread t = Thread.currentThread(); // Get reference to the current (main)  
        thread  
  
        System.out.println("Name: " + t.getName());  
        System.out.println("ID: " + t.getId());  
        System.out.println("Priority: " + t.getPriority());  
        System.out.println("Group: " + t.getThreadGroup().getName());  
    }  
}
```

□ Sample Output:

Name: main

ID: 1

Priority: 5

Group: main

☐ Main Thread Responsibilities

- Starts execution of the program.
 - Creates other child threads.
 - Manages the flow of the program.
 - Ends only **after** all code in main() has been executed.
-

☐ Can You Modify Main Thread?

Yes, the main thread is a regular Thread object. You can:

```
Thread.currentThread().setName("MyMainThread");  
System.out.println(Thread.currentThread().getName()); // MyMainThread
```

☐ Important Notes

- The main thread will **not wait** for child threads **unless you use .join()**.
 - If the main thread exits before others, JVM will keep running if **non-daemon** threads are active.
-

☐ Example: Main vs Child Thread

```
class MyThread extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Child Thread Running");  
    }  
}  
  
public class MainVsChild {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
MyThread t = new MyThread();
t.start();

System.out.println("Main Thread Running");
}
}
```

❑ **Sample Output (Order not guaranteed):**

Main Thread Running
Child Thread Running

Thread Life Cycle in Java

What is Thread Life Cycle?

A **Java thread** goes through various **stages (states)** during its lifetime — from creation to termination. This is known as the **Thread Life Cycle**.

Java provides built-in support to monitor and manage these states through the Thread.State enum.

❑ **Thread Life Cycle States**

1. New

- The thread is **created** but **not yet started**.
- Created using:
Thread t = new Thread();

2. Runnable

- The thread is **ready to run** and is waiting for CPU allocation by the **Thread Scheduler**.
- Set using:
t.start();

3. Running

- The thread is **currently executing** its run() method.
- The actual transition from **Runnable** → **Running** is managed by the **Thread Scheduler**.

4. Blocked

- The thread is **waiting to acquire a lock** (object-level lock).
- Example: When two threads try to enter a synchronized block and one has to wait.

5. Waiting

- The thread is **waiting indefinitely** for another thread to perform a specific action.
- Example: wait(), join() without timeout.

6. Timed Waiting

- The thread is **waiting for a specific amount of time**.
- Example: sleep(1000), join(500), wait(2000)

7. Terminated (Dead)

- The thread has **completed execution** or **was forcefully stopped**.
- Cannot be restarted once terminated.

Thread Life Cycle Diagram

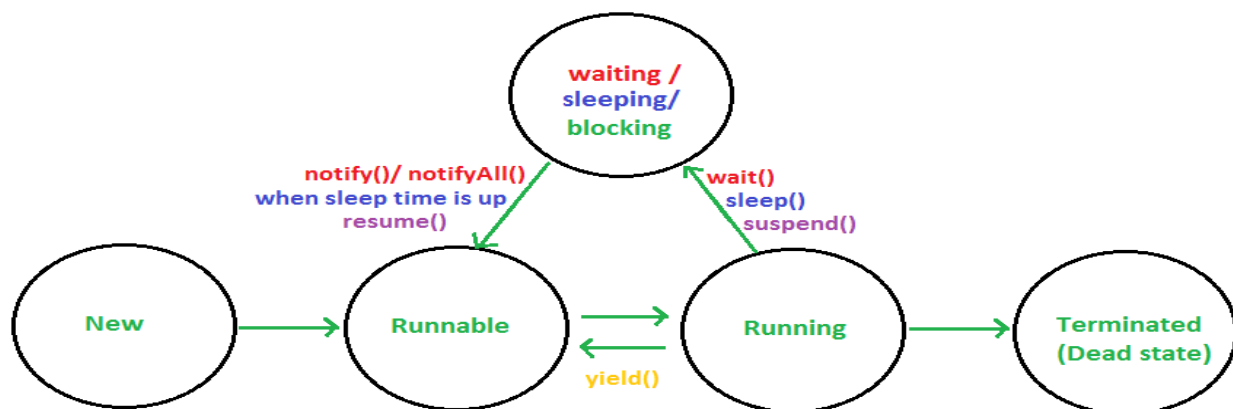


Fig. THREAD STATES

❑ Important Notes

- You **can't restart** a thread once it's dead (TERMINATED).
- Only start() moves a thread from NEW to RUNNABLE.
- Manual transitions are **not possible** — they are managed by JVM and OS.

Thread Class Methods in Java

The Thread class in Java (under java.lang package) provides **many useful methods** to manage thread behavior like starting, pausing, joining, naming, etc.

Commonly Used Thread Class Methods

| Method | Description |
|------------------|---|
| start() | Starts a new thread and calls run() |
| run() | Contains the thread's task logic |
| sleep(ms) | Pauses the thread for given milliseconds |
| join() | Waits for the thread to finish execution |
| setName(String) | Sets the thread's name |
| getName() | Returns the thread's name |
| setPriority(int) | Sets thread priority (1 to 10) |
| getPriority() | Returns thread priority |
| isAlive() | Checks if thread is still running |
| currentThread() | Static method to get current thread reference |
| interrupt() | Interrupts the thread |

| Method | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| isInterrupted() | Checks if thread is interrupted |

☐ Demonstration of Key Methods

☐ start() and run()

```
Thread t = new Thread() -> System.out.println("Running thread");  
t.start(); // starts new thread
```

☐ sleep()

```
try {  
    Thread.sleep(1000); // sleep for 1 second  
} catch (InterruptedException e) {  
    e.printStackTrace();  
}
```

☐ sleep() causes the **current thread** to pause.

☐ join()

```
Thread t = new Thread() -> {  
    for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++) {  
        System.out.println("Child Thread");  
    }  
});  
  
t.start();  
  
try {  
    t.join(); // Waits for child thread to complete  
} catch (InterruptedException e) {  
    e.printStackTrace();  
}
```

```
}
```

```
System.out.println("Main Thread continues");
```

☐ **setName() and getName()**

```
Thread t = new Thread();  
t.setName("MyWorker");  
System.out.println(t.getName()); // MyWorker
```

☐ **setPriority() and getPriority()**

```
t.setPriority(Thread.MAX_PRIORITY);  
System.out.println(t.getPriority()); // 10
```

☐ Priorities range from 1 to 10 (default = 5)

☐ **isAlive() and currentThread()**

```
Thread t = new Thread(() -> {});  
System.out.println(t.isAlive()); // false  
t.start();  
System.out.println(Thread.currentThread().getName()); // main
```

☐ **Special Method: interrupt()**

Used to **interrupt a thread** (especially useful in long-running loops or waiting states):

```
Thread t = new Thread(() -> {  
    while (!Thread.currentThread().isInterrupted()) {  
        // keep running  
    }  
});  
t.start();  
t.interrupt(); // requests to stop the thread
```

Thread Priority in Java

What is Thread Priority?

In Java, **each thread has a priority**, an integer value from **1 to 10**, that **helps the thread scheduler decide** which thread to run when multiple threads are ready.

❑ **Thread priority is a suggestion** to the **Thread Scheduler**, not a command. The actual behavior depends on the **OS and JVM**.

❑ Priority Constants

Java provides 3 predefined constants in the Thread class:

| Constant | Value | Meaning |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|
| Thread.MIN_PRIORITY | 1 | Lowest priority |
| Thread.NORM_PRIORITY | 5 | Default priority |
| Thread.MAX_PRIORITY | 10 | Highest priority |

❑ How to Set and Get Priority

Set Priority:

```
Thread t = new Thread();  
t.setPriority(Thread.MAX_PRIORITY); // Set to 10
```

Get Priority:

```
int p = t.getPriority();  
System.out.println("Priority: " + p);
```

❑ When to Use Thread Priority?

- Use it when you want **relative importance** among threads.
-

- Useful in real-time or time-sensitive tasks (but still not fully reliable).
 - For **absolute control**, consider Executors or other concurrency APIs.
-

❑ Important Notes

- Priority doesn't guarantee execution order.
- Changing priority of a thread after it has started may not take effect.
- Use priority **only for optimization**, not control flow logic.

Methods to Prevent Thread Execution in Java

In multithreading, there are several methods that can **pause, stop, or delay** the execution of a thread temporarily. These are **not to terminate** a thread, but to control or coordinate its execution flow.

1. sleep(long ms)

Purpose: Pauses the current thread for a specific time in **milliseconds**.

Syntax:

Thread.sleep(1000); // Sleeps for 1 second

Behavior:

- The **current thread pauses** execution.
- The thread goes into the **TIMED_WAITING** state.
- After the time is up, it becomes **Runnable** again.
- Throws InterruptedException.

Example:

```
try {
    System.out.println("Sleeping...");
    Thread.sleep(2000);
    System.out.println("Awake!");
} catch (InterruptedException e) {
    e.printStackTrace();
}
```

```
}
```

2. join()

Purpose: Waits for a thread to **finish its execution**.

Syntax:

```
t.join();    // Waits until t finishes  
t.join(1000); // Waits for 1 second max
```

Behavior:

- Used to **pause the calling thread** (e.g., main thread) until the specified thread finishes.
- Thread goes into the **WAITING** or **TIMED_WAITING** state.

Example:

```
Thread t1 = new Thread(() -> {  
    for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++) {  
        System.out.println("Child Thread");  
    }  
});  
  
t1.start();  
t1.join(); // Main thread waits  
System.out.println("Main Thread continues...");
```

3. yield()

Purpose: Temporarily **pauses the current thread** to give a chance for other threads of **equal priority** to execute.

Syntax:

```
Thread.yield();
```

Behavior:

- It's a **static method**.
- Suggests the thread scheduler to let other threads run.
- May or may not have any effect (JVM dependent).

Example:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {  
    System.out.println("Running...");  
    Thread.yield(); // Hint to scheduler  
}
```

4. wait(), notify(), and notifyAll() (From Object Class)

Purpose: Used for **inter-thread communication** within synchronized blocks.

| Method | Behavior |
|-------------|---|
| wait() | Pauses current thread until another thread calls notify() |
| notify() | Wakes up a single thread waiting on the object |
| notifyAll() | Wakes up all threads waiting on the object |

Example:

```
synchronized(obj) {  
    obj.wait(); // waits until notify is called  
}
```

```
synchronized(obj) {  
    obj.notify(); // wakes up one waiting thread  
}
```

- ☐ These are **advanced mechanisms** used for coordination between threads.
-

- ☐ **Deprecated:** stop(), suspend(), and resume()

These methods are **deprecated and unsafe** because:

- stop() can terminate a thread **in the middle of execution**, causing inconsistent state.
- suspend() and resume() can lead to **deadlocks**.

□ Use proper **flags or interrupts** to terminate threads safely.

Synchronization in Java

What is Synchronization?

Synchronization in Java is the process of **controlling access to shared resources** (like variables, methods, objects) by multiple threads to **prevent data inconsistency or race conditions**.

□ Without synchronization, two or more threads may **interleave** and cause **unexpected results** when accessing the same data.

□ Why Synchronization?

Imagine a bank account being updated by two threads at the same time:

- Thread 1: withdraws ₹100
 - Thread 2: deposits ₹200
- If not synchronized, the final balance may be **corrupted**.
-

□ Race Condition

Occurs when:

- Multiple threads access the same resource
- At least one thread modifies it
- No proper coordination or locking

Example (Unsynchronized):

```
class Counter {
```

```
int count = 0;
void increment() {
    count++; // Not thread-safe
}
}
```

Synchronized Methods

Use synchronized keyword to lock the **entire method** so only one thread can execute it at a time.

```
class Counter {
    int count = 0;

    synchronized void increment() {
        count++; // Thread-safe
    }
}
```

Synchronized Blocks

Use synchronized(obj) to lock a **specific block of code** (for better performance):

```
class Counter {
    int count = 0;
    Object lock = new Object();

    void increment() {
        synchronized(lock) {
            count++;
        }
    }
}
```

- ☐ Good practice when only part of the method needs to be synchronized.
-

☐ Java's Locking Mechanism

When a thread enters a synchronized method/block:

- It **acquires a lock (monitor)** on the object.
 - Other threads trying to access the same locked method/object must **wait**.
 - Once the thread exits the block/method, the lock is **released**.
-

☐ Only one thread will print the full table at a time due to synchronization.

☐ Notes

- Synchronization affects **performance** (only one thread at a time).
- Use **minimal locking** — lock only what's necessary.
- To achieve more advanced control, use ReentrantLock (from `java.util.concurrent.locks`).

Synchronization Method vs Block – Which is Better Practice?

1. Synchronized Method

☐ Syntax:

```
synchronized void myMethod() {  
    // entire method is locked  
}
```

Pros:

- Simple and easy to implement.
- Automatically locks the **current object** (this).

Cons:

- **Locks the entire method**, even if only a part of it needs synchronization.
 - Can reduce **performance**, especially in long methods.
-

2. Synchronized Block

□ Syntax:

```
void myMethod() {  
    // some code  
  
    synchronized(lockObject) {  
        // only this part is synchronized  
    }  
  
    // other code  
}
```

Pros:

- Gives **fine-grained control** over what needs to be locked.
- Improves **performance** by locking only **critical section**.
- You can choose which **object to lock** (not always this).

Cons:

- Slightly more complex to implement.
- Needs a proper lockObject.

12. Inter-Thread Communication in Java

(wait(), notify(), notifyAll())

What is Inter-Thread Communication?

Inter-thread communication allows threads to **coordinate** and **share data** safely. It lets one thread **pause** its execution and **resume** when another thread performs a specific action.

□ Why Use It?

- Prevents **polling** (constant checking).

- Improves **efficiency** in producer-consumer or task-waiting scenarios.
- Allows **cooperation** between threads.

Core Methods (From Object Class)

| Method | Description |
|-------------|--|
| wait() | Tells the current thread to wait and release the lock until another thread calls notify() or notifyAll() |
| notify() | Wakes up one thread waiting on the object |
| notifyAll() | Wakes up all threads waiting on the object |

❑ Important Rules

- These methods must be called **inside a synchronized block or method**.
- The calling thread must own the **object's monitor/lock**.
- If called without synchronization, you'll get:

`java.lang.IllegalMonitorStateException`

❑ wait() vs sleep()

| Feature | wait() | sleep() |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Belongs to | Object class | Thread class |
| Releases lock? | Yes | No |
| Used for | Inter-thread communication | Delay/pause |
| Requires synchronized block | Yes | No |

❑ notify() vs notifyAll()

| Method | Wakes up |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| notify() | One thread (arbitrary choice by JVM) |
| notifyAll() | All threads waiting on the object |

- ❑ Use notify() when **only one thread** needs to proceed.
Use notifyAll() when **multiple threads** may proceed.
-

❑ Common Mistakes

- Calling wait() or notify() **outside** a synchronized block.
 - Forgetting to use while(condition) instead of if(condition) for waiting.
 - Not handling InterruptedException.
-

Best Practice Pattern

```
synchronized(obj) {  
    while (!condition) {  
        obj.wait();  
    }  
    // perform task  
    obj.notify();  
}
```

13. Advanced Multithreading in Java

1. Lock and ReentrantLock (From java.util.concurrent.locks)

Java introduced **explicit locking** via the Lock interface for **better control** than synchronized.

What is ReentrantLock?

A **ReentrantLock** is an implementation of Lock that allows the **same thread to acquire the lock multiple times** without deadlocking.

❑ Key Methods:

| Method | Description |
|---------------------|---|
| lock() | Acquires the lock |
| unlock() | Releases the lock |
| tryLock() | Attempts to get the lock without waiting |
| lockInterruptibly() | Allows thread to be interrupted while waiting |

2. ExecutorService – Managing Threads Efficiently

What is it?

ExecutorService is a **thread pool manager** from java.util.concurrent. It creates and reuses a pool of threads, instead of creating new threads manually.

□ Common Types:

| Executor Type | Description |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| newFixedThreadPool(n) | Reuses a fixed number of threads |
| newCachedThreadPool() | Creates new threads as needed |
| newSingleThreadExecutor() | One thread only |

3. Callable and Future

What is Callable?

- Similar to Runnable, but it **returns a result** and can **throw exceptions**.
- Generic: Callable<T> returns type T.

What is Future?

- Represents the **result of a computation** that may not have completed yet.
- Provides methods like get(), isDone(), and cancel().

Lock vs synchronized in Java

Which is better? When to use what?

1. Basic Definitions

| Feature | synchronized | Lock (like ReentrantLock) |
|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Type | Keyword (built-in) | Interface (java.util.concurrent.locks) |
| Locking | Implicit | Explicit (manual) |
| Introduced In | Java 1.0 | Java 1.5 |

2. Syntax Comparison

☐ synchronized

```
synchronized(obj) {  
    // critical section  
}
```

☐ Lock (ReentrantLock)

```
lock.lock();  
try {  
    // critical section  
} finally {  
    lock.unlock(); // must release  
}
```

3. Key Differences

| Criteria | synchronized | Lock |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Lock Acquisition/Release | Automatically acquired & released | Manual: must call lock() & unlock() |
| Try Locking | Not possible | tryLock() avoids blocking |
| Interruptible Lock | No support | lockInterruptibly() supported |
| Fairness | No fairness options | Can create fair locks (new ReentrantLock(true)) |
| Read/Write Locking | Not supported | Supported via ReadWriteLock |
| Condition Waiting | Uses wait(), notify() | Uses Condition object (await(), signal()) |
| Performance | Simple and sufficient for basic use | More flexible and scalable for complex apps |

4. When to Use

| Situation | Use |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Simple critical section | synchronized is enough |
| Multiple lock conditions | Prefer Lock |
| Need to try for lock (non-blocking) | Use tryLock() from Lock |
| Require timeout or interruptible lock | Use Lock |
| Want fine-grained control | Use Lock |

ExecutorService – Thread Pool Methods in Java

What is ExecutorService?

ExecutorService is part of java.util.concurrent and provides a **flexible thread pool management system**, allowing better control over **thread creation, reuse, and shutdown**.

❑ Think of it as a **thread manager** that efficiently handles background tasks using a **pool of threads**.

❑ Why Use Thread Pools?

- Reuse threads instead of creating new ones each time.
 - Improve performance and reduce memory overhead.
 - Manage threads systematically.
 - Prevents thread exhaustion.
-

Common Factory Methods (from Executors class)

| Method | Description |
|---|--|
| Executors.newFixedThreadPool(int n) | Creates a pool with a fixed number of threads |
| Executors.newCachedThreadPool() | Creates threads as needed, reuses idle ones |
| Executors.newSingleThreadExecutor() | Executes tasks one by one (sequentially) |
| Executors.newScheduledThreadPool(int n) | Schedules tasks to run after delay or periodically |

Key ExecutorService Methods

| Method | Description |
|---------------------------------|---|
| submit(Runnable/Callable) | Submits a task for execution (may return Future) |
| execute(Runnable) | Submits a task (no result expected) |
| shutdown() | Gracefully shuts down the executor (no new tasks) |
| shutdownNow() | Attempts to stop all tasks immediately |
| isShutdown() | Returns true if shutdown() was called |
| isTerminated() | Returns true if all tasks have finished |
| awaitTermination(timeout, unit) | Waits for existing tasks to finish |

Future vs Callable in Java

1. What is Callable?

- Callable is a **functional interface** used to **create tasks that return a result** and may **throw exceptions**.
- Introduced in Java 5 (java.util.concurrent).

□ Syntax:

```
Callable<String> task = () -> {  
    return "Result";  
};
```

- Used with ExecutorService.submit(Callable) to execute tasks.
 - Returns a Future object.
-

2. What is Future?

- Future is an **interface** that represents the **result of an asynchronous computation**.

- It is returned when a task is submitted using Callable (or Runnable) to an ExecutorService.

□ **Key Methods:**

| Method | Description |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| get() | Waits and returns the result |
| isDone() | Returns true if task is finished |
| cancel() | Tries to cancel the task |
| isCancelled() | Checks if task was cancelled |

Key Differences: Callable vs Future

| Feature | Callable | Future |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Type | Interface | Interface |
| Purpose | To create tasks that return a value | To retrieve results of submitted tasks |
| Returns | Result (via call() method) | Result (via get() method) |
| Throws Exception | Yes | No (wraps exceptions from call() inside ExecutionException) |
| Submitted to | ExecutorService.submit() | Returned by submit() method |
| Example Use | Creating task logic | Handling task result |