

1. Match Baud Rates on Both Ends

Always ensure that both transmitting and receiving devices operate at the same baud rate (e.g., 9600, 115200 bps) to avoid data corruption.

2. Properly Configure GPIO Pins

Configure the microcontroller's TX and RX pins in alternate function mode and ensure correct electrical characteristics (push-pull/open-drain, pull-up/down).

3. Enable Peripheral Clocks

Don't forget to enable the UART or USART peripheral clock in your microcontroller's RCC or clock control module.

4. Set Frame Format Correctly

Choose correct frame parameters like word length (usually 8 or 9 bits), number of stop bits (1 or 2), and parity (none, even, odd) to match the connected device.

5. Use Pull-up Resistors on RX Line (if needed)

On some boards, the RX line may float and cause false starts. Use a pull-up resistor if required.

6. Implement Interrupt-Based Communication

For efficiency, use UART receive/transmit interrupts instead of polling. This avoids CPU blocking during data transmission.

7. Use DMA for Large Data Transfers

In high-speed applications, Direct Memory Access (DMA) can offload CPU

and improve UART throughput.

8. Design Circular Buffers for RX and TX

Implement ring buffers for storing incoming and outgoing data streams. This prevents data loss and makes buffering more robust.

9. Debounce or Delay After Power-Up

Some UART peripherals need a few clock cycles or milliseconds of delay after reset or power-up before being configured.

10. Verify Clock Accuracy

UART timing depends on system clock. Ensure the main clock is accurate enough for the selected baud rate.

11. Avoid Using `printf` in ISR

Don't use blocking functions like `printf` inside interrupt handlers. It can cause system hangs and missed UART events.

12. Handle UART Errors Gracefully

Monitor and clear error flags such as framing error, overrun error, and noise error in status registers.

13. Check TX Buffer Empty Before Sending

Always check that the transmit buffer is empty before writing new data, especially when sending manually without interrupts.

14. Include Start and Stop Bits in Framing

Remember that UART automatically adds start and stop bits. You don't need

to add them manually in software.

15. Use Hardware Flow Control if Required

For reliable high-speed communication, enable RTS/CTS hardware flow control if supported by both devices.

16. Watch Out for Crosstalk and Noise

Use shielded cables and proper grounding if UART lines run over long distances or noisy environments.

17. Don't Forget NVIC Configuration (for ARM MCUs)

When using interrupts on ARM-based MCUs, make sure to enable the UART IRQ in the Nested Vectored Interrupt Controller (NVIC).

18. Use External Level Shifters (if voltage mismatch)

If UART devices operate at different voltage levels (e.g., 5V and 3.3V), use a level shifter to prevent damage.

19. Verify Data Using Serial Terminals

Tools like Tera Term, PuTTY, or RealTerm help visualize sent/received UART data and debug issues.

20. Document Your UART Settings

Clearly document UART configurations (baud rate, parity, stop bits, etc.) in your code or header files to ensure compatibility in future development.