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# Entity Framework

Question 1: Difference between code-first, database-first, and model-first approaches?

1. **Code-First** → You write **C# classes** first → EF creates database from them.
2. **Database-First** → In **Database First Approach**, the **database is already created** (tables, relationships, keys, etc.). We use Scaffold-DbContext command to generate **models and DbContext** from tables.



1. **Model-First** → You design a **visual model (EDMX)** → EF generates both classes and database. **EF Core does not support Model-First (EDMX designer)** — it only supports **Code-First** and **Database-First**. Model-First was only in **older EF (up to EF6)**.

Question 2: Explain eager loading vs lazy loading vs explicit loading?

1. **Eager Loading** → Related data is loaded **immediately together** with the main data (using Include).
2. **Lazy Loading** → Related data is loaded **only when you access it later** (needs EF Core Proxies and virtual keyword with navigation property).
3. **Explicit Loading** → You **manually tell EF** to load related data (using Load).

(context.Entry(...).Collection(...).Load()).

1. **Which to use?** → In real projects we **prefer Eager Loading**, because it clearly fetches everything in one go and avoids surprises. **Lazy Loading** can cause many hidden queries, so it’s rarely used in big projects. **Explicit Loading** is used only when we want full manual control, but not for everyday cases.

Example- one to many (one student have many course but course will have single student)

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Eager Loading (Include) - I want Student + all his Courses immediately in one query.

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Explicit Loading (Load) First give me Student, later I’ll decide whether to fetch his Courses.

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Lazy Loading Don’t fetch related data until I actually try to use the navigation property. EF will **auto-fetch** when you first access student.Courses

To Enable Lazy loading follow steps:

1. Install 
2. Set this in program.cs. UseLazyLoadingProxies();

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1. Mark navigation properties as virtual

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A computer screen shot of a program

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Question 3: What's the difference between DbContext and ObjectContext?

1. DbContext → DbContext is the main class in Entity Framework Core that connects our C# code with the database. It manages the database connection, tracks changes of entities, and lets us query or save data.
2. ObjectContext → Older, heavier, low-level API (used in EF 4.x/5/6).
3. Today, we mostly use DbContext.

Question 4: How do you handle transactions in EF Core?

We handle transactions in EF Core using Database.BeginTransaction(). If all operations succeed, we commit; otherwise, we rollback to keep data safe. a transaction makes sure a group of database operations are all done successfully or none at all.

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Question 5: What are migrations in EF Core and how do you use them?

1. Migrations in EF Core are a way to keep the database schema in sync with our model classes. Whenever we change our C# models, migrations update the database without dropping data.
2. Common commands

