

Build X: Android

Lecture Three:
Events, Intents and the Activity Lifecycle

Notes: <http://android.kcl.tech/>



Feedback

Feedback

- **Speed:** you said the speed is about right.
 - That's great, but if you ever need us to slow down (or speed up!), just let us know.
- **Breaks:** you said you want a break, so we'll give you one!
 - We'll take a 10 minute break in the middle of the lecture.
- **Slides:** you said you want us to upload the slides, so we will!
 - Slides and notes will go online before each lecture.
- **Other Feedback:** we really want to hear what you think, so don't be shy!

Recap

Recap: KCL Tech Todo

- We're going to build a basic todo list app, **KCL Tech Todo**.
- If you want a preview, it is **available on Google Play**.
 - Go to <http://tiny.cc/kcl-tech-todo>
 - Scan the QR code



Recap: Layouts, Views and View Groups

- **Layout:** a specific type of application resource
 - These define the structure and appearance of parts of your app
- **View:** an individual component of a layout
 - A button, an image, a text input, etc.
- **View Group:** a special type of view that can contain others
 - You can't see the view group, but you can use it to organise the views inside it
- **Other Resources:** used to supplement a layout, amongst other things
 - Strings, styles, dimension, etc.

View Events/Actions

Events: Giving a View an ID

<Button

```
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"  
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"  
    android:text="@string/click_me_label"  
    style="@style/click_me_button" />
```


Events: Giving a View an ID

<Button

android:id="@+id/my_button"

android:layout_width="wrap_content"

android:layout_height="wrap_content"

android:text="@string/click_me_label"

style="@style/click_me_button" />

What's in a name?

`android:id="@+id/my_button"`

`android:id`

We're setting the
ID of this view.

`@`

We want a
resource...

`+`

...it's a new
one...

`id`

...we're creating
an ID...

`my_button`

...and this is its
name!

Hello!

My name is

my_button

Events: Giving a View an ID

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android:layout_width="wrap_content"

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android:text="@string/click_me_label"

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Events: Getting a Reference to the View

I'm making a new variable called `myButton`, and it's going to hold a `Button` object.

This is the name of view to look for.

```
Button myButton =  
    (Button) findViewById(R.id.my_button);
```

By the way, the view you find will be a button.

Search through the layout and find a view for me.

Events: Listen for an Event

```
Button myButton =  
    (Button) findViewById(R.id.my_button) ;  
myButton.setOnClickListener(  
    new OnClickListener() {  
        public void onClick(View v) {  
            // do something!  
        }  
    }  
);
```

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Coding time...

Events: Your Turn

- Give your button an ID, then set an `onClickListener` for it in the activity.
- Check the handout for some click actions you could try!
 - Didn't get a handout? Go to <http://android.kcl.tech> and scroll to **Lecture Three**

Intents

Intents

- An **intent** tells Android “I intend to do something”
 - I intend to go to another activity
 - I intend to share a photo
 - I intend to send a message
 - ...
 - I intend to do some **custom action** defined by my application

Intents: Going to a Different Activity

I'm making a new variable called `intent`, and it's going to hold a `Intent` object.

```
Intent intent =  
    new Intent(this, MyActivity.class);
```

Make a new
intent...

...with a context of the
current activity...

...and a target of an activity in the
class called `MyActivity`.

Intents: Going to a Different Activity

```
Intent intent =  
    new Intent(this, MyActivity.class) ;  
startActivity(intent) ;
```

Intents: Going to a Different Activity

```
Intent intent =  
    new Intent(this, MyActivity.class);  
startActivity(intent);
```



Coding time...

Intents: Your Turn

- Create a new activity, and call it whatever you want.
 - We'll show you how!
- Use the `onClick` method from the last section to start an intent that takes the user to your new activity.

Intents: Sending Extras

Intents: Sending Extras

```
Intent intent =  
    new Intent(this, MyActivity.class);  
EditText msgInput =  
    (EditText) findViewById(R.id.msg_input);  
String msg = msgInput.getText().toString();  
intent.putExtra(EXTRA_MESSAGE, msg);  
startActivity(intent);
```

Intents: Sending Extras

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Intents: Reading Extras

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- **Every activity** is launched with an intent, which you can access.
- To get the intent, call `Intent intent = getIntent()`.
- To get the extras, call `Bundle extras = intent.getExtras();`.
- A good place to call these methods is in the `onCreate()` method.
 - We'll be looking at this next!

Intents: Reading Extras

```
public void onCreate (...) {  
    Intent intent = getIntent();  
    Bundle extras = intent.getExtras();  
    String msg = extras.getStringExtra(EXTRA_MESSAGE);  
  
    TextView textView = new TextView(this);  
    textView.setTextSize(40);  
    textView.setText(msg);  
    setContentView(textView);  
}
```

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    textView.setTextSize(40);  
    textView.setText(msg);  
    setContentView(textView);  
}
```







Coding time...

Intents: Your Turn (Again)

- **Add a string extra** to the intent you created earlier.
- **Read that string extra** in the new activity, and display it on the screen.

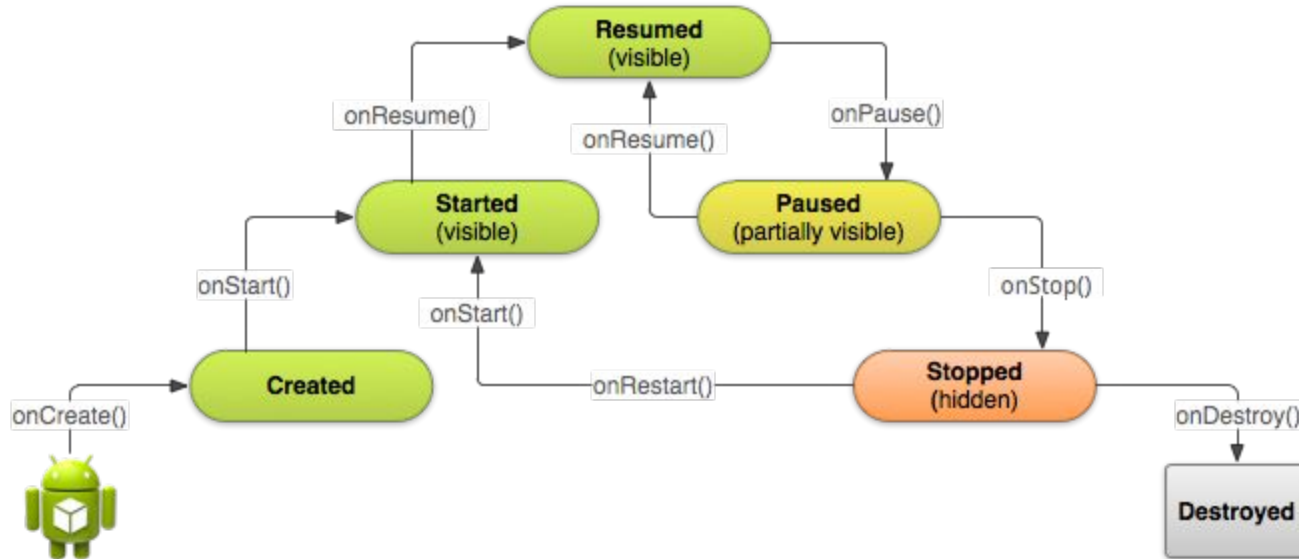


Break! (10 mins)

Activity Lifecycle

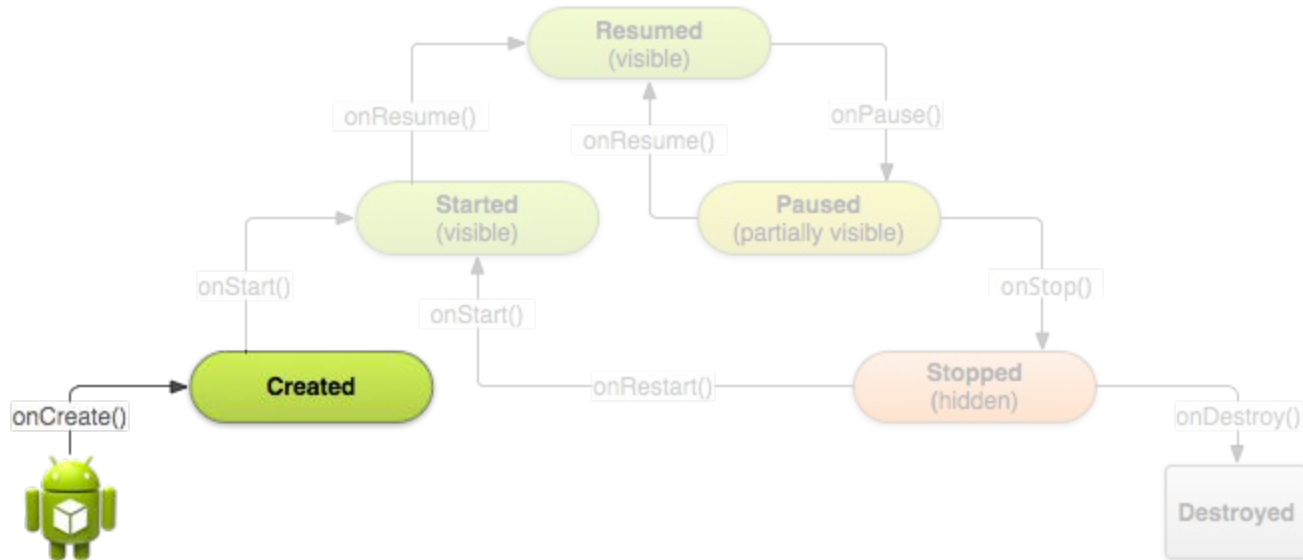
Activity Lifecycle: States

- During its lifetime, an activity will move between several **states**.



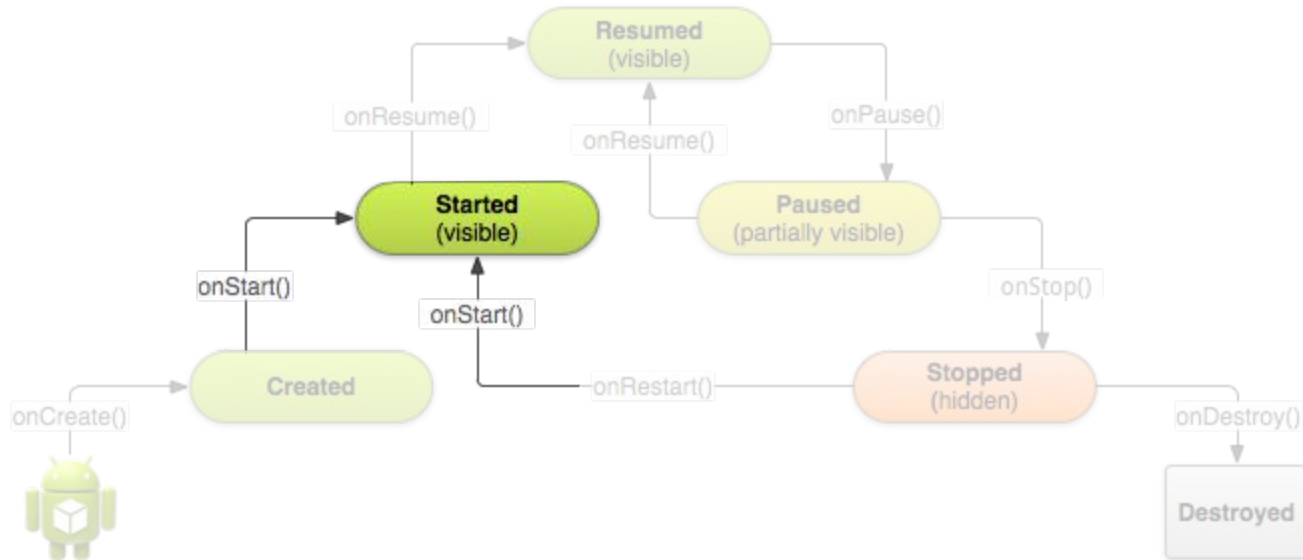
Activity Lifecycle: onCreate()

- Called when the activity is first created. This is where you can create views, setup data sources, etc. Always followed by onStart().



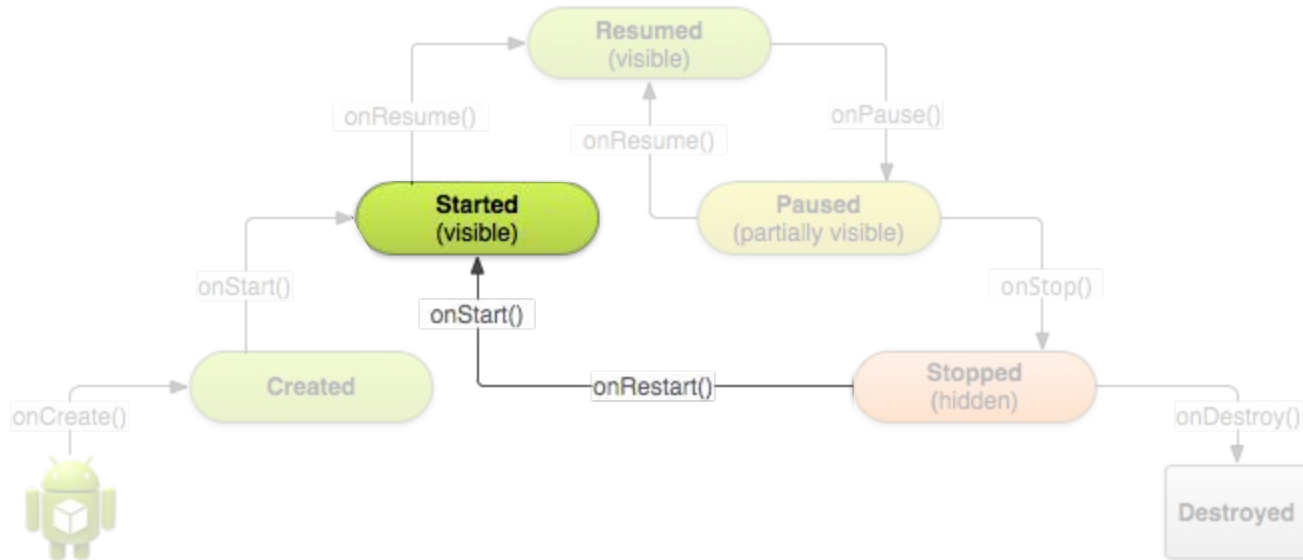
Activity Lifecycle: `onStart()`

- The activity is becoming visible to the user. Always followed by `onResume()`.



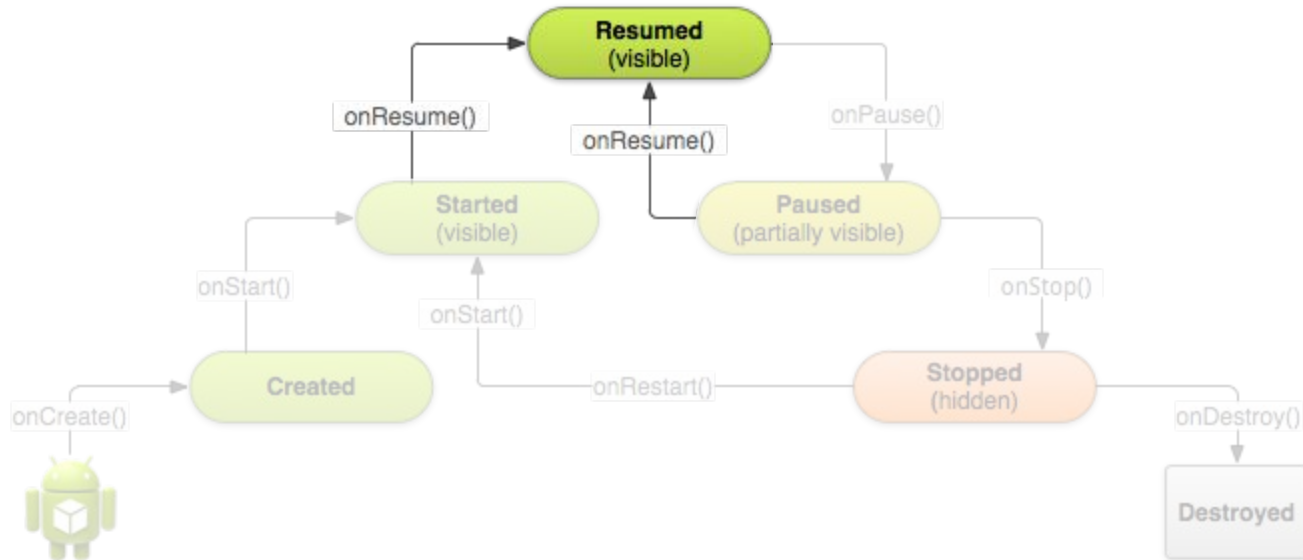
Activity Lifecycle: `onRestart()`

- Called after the activity has been stopped, prior to it being started again.
Always followed by `onStart()`.



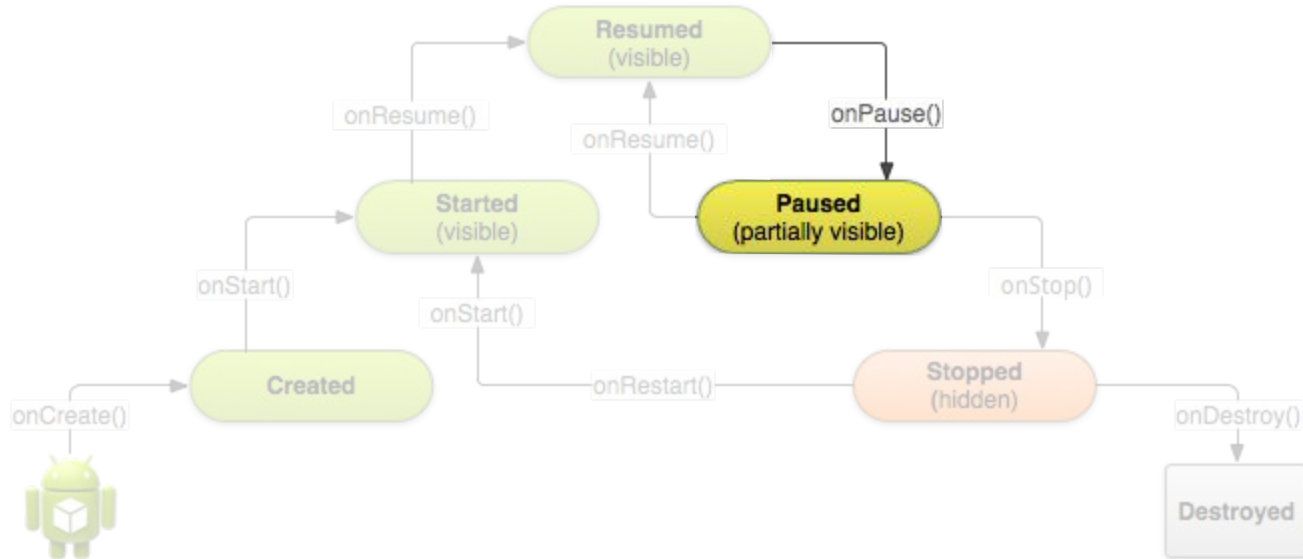
Activity Lifecycle: onResume ()

- Called when the activity will **start interacting** with the user. At this point, your activity is at the stop of the stack and receiving user input.



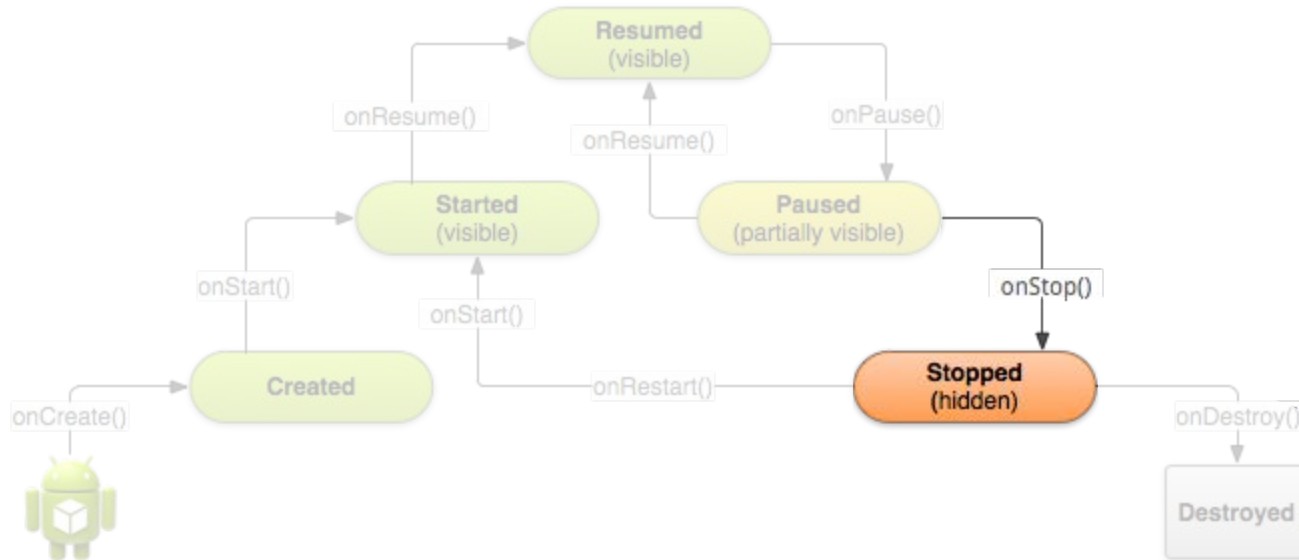
Activity Lifecycle: onPause ()

- Called when the activity is going into the background, but is not being killed yet. Example: when a dialog pops up, or another activity starts.
- This is a counterpart to onResume () .



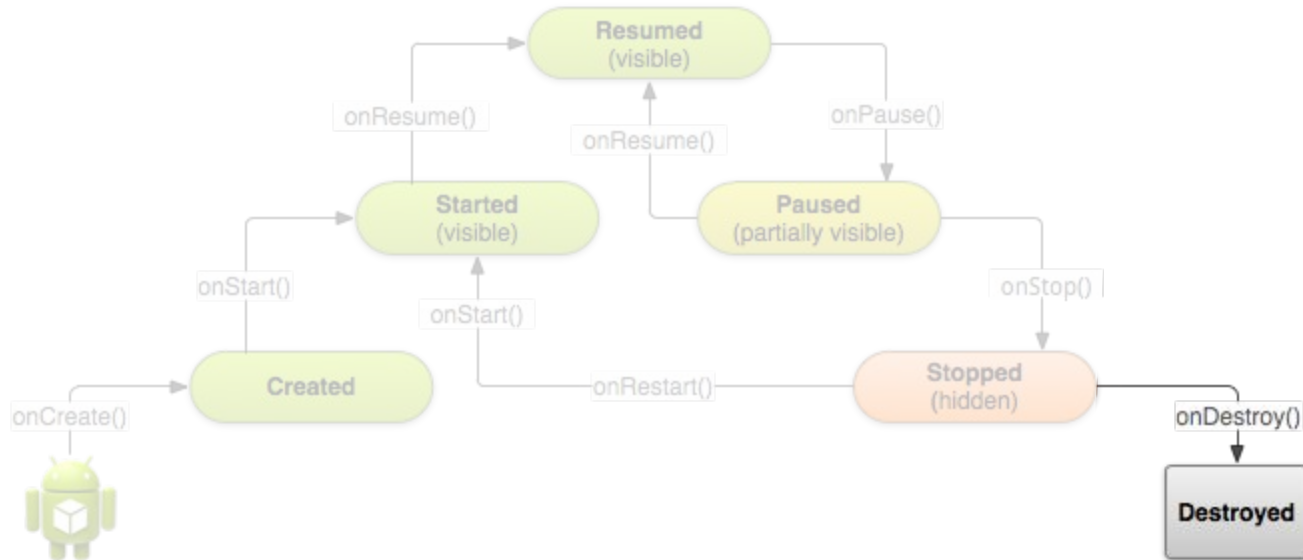
Activity Lifecycle: `onStop()`

- Called when the activity is completely hidden from the user. Followed by `onRestart()` or `onDestroy()`, or sometimes nothing.



Activity Lifecycle: `onDestroy()`

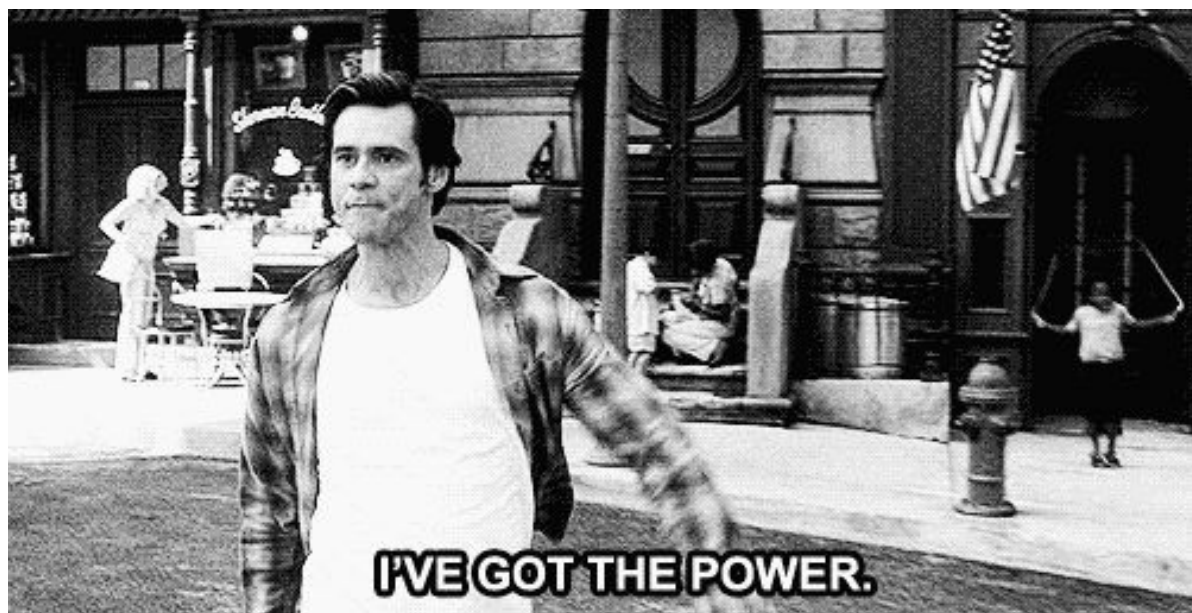
- Called when your activity is completely destroyed, either by the user fully exiting it, or the system killing it to conserve resources.





Coding time...





Intents: Activity Lifecycle

- **Create an activity** (or use the same one), and set the view to be a single `TextView` as shown in the intent slides.
- Add a line to this `TextView` each time one of the lifecycle methods is called
 - Ask questions if you need help, or use the Slack channel.
- Study how the methods are called, and in which order.



Done!

What Now?

- **Next week is reading week**
 - Don't turn up; we won't be here!
- **Finish off the lifecycle activity**
 - Remember: the Slack channel is there to help you.
- Mark and Maria will be posting some exercises in the **Slack channel**
 - Give it a go and get involved!
- **After the break:** `ListViews`, databases and putting it all together