

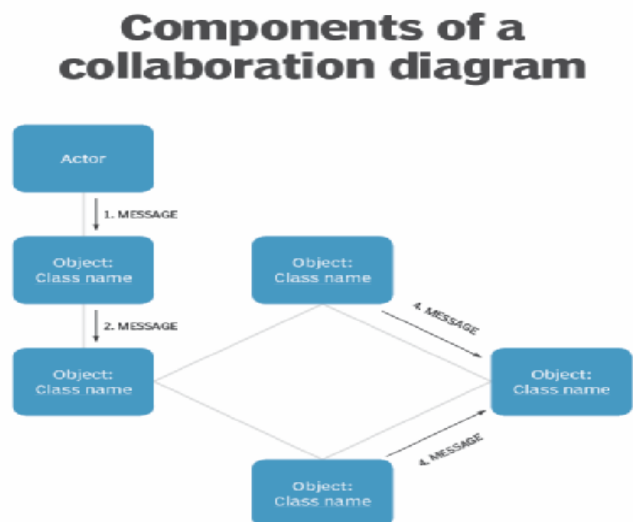
Collaboration diagram:

A collaboration diagram, also known as a communication diagram, is an illustration of the relationships and interactions among software [objects](#) in the Unified Modelling Language ([UML](#)). These diagrams can be used to portray the dynamic behaviour of a particular [use case](#) and define the role of each object. Several vendors offer software for creating and editing collaboration diagrams.

Notations of a collaboration diagram

The four major components of a collaboration diagram are:

1. **Objects**- Objects are shown as rectangles with naming labels inside. The naming label follows the convention of object name: class name
2. **Actors**- Actors are instances that invoke the interaction in the diagram. Each actor has a name and a role, with one actor initiating the entire use case.
3. **Links**- Links connect objects with actors and are depicted using a solid line between two elements. Each link is an instance where messages can be sent.
4. **Messages**- Messages between objects are shown as a labelled arrow placed near a link.



The most important objects are placed in the centre of the diagram, with all other participating objects branching off.

When to use a collaboration diagram

A few examples of instances where collaboration diagrams might be helpful include:

- Modelling collaborations, mechanisms or the structural organization within a system design.
- Providing an overview of collaborating objects within an object-oriented system.
- Exhibiting many alternative scenarios for the same use case.
- Capturing the passage of information between objects.
- Visualizing the complex logic behind an operation.