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## Instance Method

# `readData(ofLength:)` **Deprecated**

Reads data synchronously up to the specified number of bytes.

iOS 2.0–26.2 **Deprecated** | iPadOS 2.0–26.2 **Deprecated** | Mac Catalyst 13.1+ | macOS 10.0–26.2 **Deprecated** |  
tvOS 9.0–26.2 **Deprecated** | visionOS 1.0–26.2 **Deprecated** | watchOS 2.0–26.0 **Deprecated**

```
func readData(ofLength length: Int) -> Data
```

### Deprecated

To handle errors when reading data from the file handle, use `read(upToCount:)` in Swift and `readDataUpToLength:error:` in Objective-C.

## Parameters

### `length`

The number of bytes to read from the file handle.

## Return Value

The data available through the receiver up to a maximum of `length` bytes, or the maximum size that can be represented by an `NSData` object, whichever is the smaller.

## Discussion

If the handle represents a file, this method returns the data obtained by reading `length` bytes starting at the current file pointer. If `length` bytes aren't available, this method returns the data

from the current file pointer to the end of the file. If the handle represents a communications channel, the method reads up to `length` bytes from the channel. Returns an empty `NSData` object if the handle is at the file's end or if the communications channel returns an end-of-file indicator.

### Important

This method raises `fileHandleOperationException` if attempts to determine the file-handle type fail or if attempts to read from the file or channel fail.

## See Also

### Related Documentation

`var availableData: Data`

The data currently available in the receiver.

### Deprecated

~~`func readDataToEOFFile() -> Data`~~

Reads the available data synchronously up to the end of file or maximum number of bytes.

Deprecated

~~`func write(Data)`~~

Writes the specified data synchronously to the file handle.

Deprecated

~~`var offsetInFile: UInt64`~~

The position of the file pointer within the file represented by the file handle.

Deprecated

~~`func seekToEOFFile() -> UInt64`~~

Places the file pointer at the end of the file referenced by the file handle and returns the new file offset.

Deprecated

~~`func seek(toFileOffset: UInt64)`~~

Moves the file pointer to the specified offset within the file represented by the receiver.

Deprecated

~~func closeFile()~~

Disallows further access to the represented file or communications channel and signals end of file on communications channels that permit writing.

Deprecated

~~func synchronizeFile()~~

Causes all in-memory data and attributes of the file represented by the handle to write to permanent storage.

Deprecated

~~func truncateFile(atOffset: UInt64)~~

Truncates or extends the file represented by the file handle to a specified offset within the file and puts the file pointer at that position.

Deprecated

~~let NSFileHandleNotificationMonitorModes: String~~

Currently unused.

Deprecated