**ADO.NET** is a set of classes within the **.NET Framework** that provides consistent access to various data sources, including relational databases (such as SQL Server), XML, and other data stores. [It allows developers to connect to these data sources, retrieve, manipulate, and update data efficiently1](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/data/adonet/ado-net-overview)[2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ADO.NET).

Here are **five free reference links** where you can learn more about ADO.NET:

1. [**Microsoft Learn - ADO.NET Overview**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/data/adonet/ado-net-overview): This official Microsoft Learn resource provides an introduction to ADO.NET, its design, and components[3](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-Us/dotnet/framework/data/adonet/).
2. [**Sams Teach Yourself ADO.NET in 24 Hours**](https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/sams-teach-yourself/0672323834/): Explore ADO.NET concepts and practical examples in this book available on the O’Reilly learning platform with a 10-day free trial[4](https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/sams-teach-yourself/0672323834/).
3. [**Microsoft ADO.NET 4 Step by Step**](https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/microsoft-adonet-4/9780735656260/): Dive deeper into ADO.NET with step-by-step guidance from this O’Reilly book[5](https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/microsoft-adonet-4/9780735656260/).
4. [**Entity Framework Resources**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/data/adonet/ef/resources): If you’re interested in Entity Framework (built on ADO.NET), this page provides external resources and support for creating Entity Framework applications[6](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/data/adonet/ef/resources).
5. [**ADO.NET Team Blog**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/connect/ado-net/microsoft-ado-net-sql-server?view=sql-server-ver16): Stay updated with ADO.NET features and functionality through this blog, which discusses ADO.NET topics and updates[7](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/connect/ado-net/microsoft-ado-net-sql-server?view=sql-server-ver16).

Happy learning! 📚👩‍💻