**Topic** implements **publish and subscribe** semantics. When you publish a message it goes to all the subscribers who are interested - so many subscribers will receive a copy of the message. Only subscribers who had an **active subscription** at the time the broker receives the message will get a copy of the message.

**Queue** implements **load balancer** semantics. A single message will be received by exactly one consumer. If there are no consumers available at the time the message is sent it will be kept until a consumer is available that can process the message.

If a consumer receives a message and does not acknowledge it before closing, then the message will be re-delivered to another consumer. A queue can have many consumers with messages load balanced across the available consumers.

**Topics** are for the **publisher-subscriber** model, while **Queues** are for the **point-to-point** model.