We use **asynchronous functions** in **Next.js** to handle tasks that **take time** to complete, like:

* Fetching data from an API
* Reading from a database
* Writing to a file
* Waiting for user input

Instead of making the whole website wait for that task to finish, **asynchronous functions** allow the app to **continue running** while the task is being completed in the background.

**📌 In easy words:**

Imagine you're cooking dinner and your friend is baking a cake in the oven.  
You don't just stand there doing nothing until the cake is ready—you cook while the cake bakes.

**Asynchronous functions** are like that—your app continues running (cooking) while waiting for the slow task (baking) to finish.

**🧠 In Next.js, we often use it like this: CODE**

**export async function getServerSideProps() {**

**const res = await fetch('https://api.example.com/data');**

**const data = await res.json();**

**return {**

**props: { data },**

**};**

**}**

* async lets the function run in the background.
* await pauses only that line until the data is received.
* The rest of the app doesn't freeze.