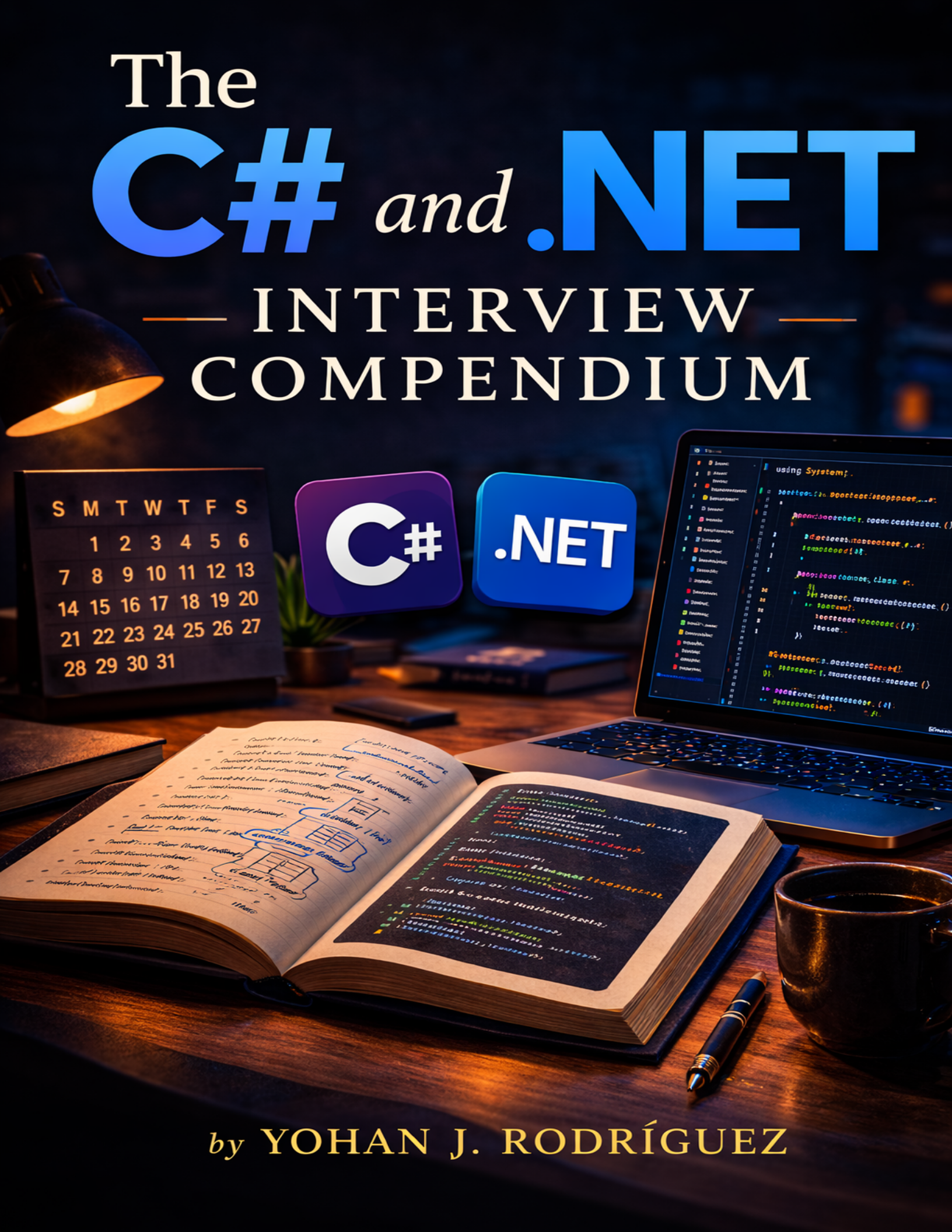
The C# and .NET INTERVIEW COMPENDIUM



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Preface

Technical interviews for C# and .NET roles rarely test knowledge in the order it was learned. A single conversation can move from how a `Dictionary<TKey,TValue>` resolves collisions, to why a `Task` isn't a thread, to how you'd design a multi-tenant system, to what SOLID principle a piece of code violates — often within the same hour, often with a whiteboard or a shared editor open. This book exists to make that kind of conversation less intimidating, by putting a large, structured, question-and-answer reference to that material in one place: something you can read cover to cover while preparing, or open to exactly the topic a specific interview loop is likely to probe.

This is not a beginner's introduction to programming, and it does not teach C# from a blank editor. It assumes you already write C# professionally, or are close to it, and that your gap is one of breadth, currency, or confidence rather than raw unfamiliarity with the language. Within that assumption, the book covers a genuinely wide span: some sections revisit fundamentals precisely enough to catch the developer who has used a `Dictionary` for years without ever being asked how one actually works internally; others sit at a level most engineers only reach with years of production experience — implementing Tarjan's algorithm for strongly connected components, designing a fault-tolerant distributed system, or reasoning about GDPR constraints in an architecture review. You do not need every chapter to feel equally familiar. Developers preparing for a mid-level role, engineers refreshing fundamentals before a return to interviewing, and candidates preparing for senior or staff-level technical discussions will each find real material here — not merely different levels of difficulty on the same handful of topics.

What you will actually get from working through this book is not a script of memorized answers, but a faster, more confident path to constructing a correct one. You will be able to explain not just *what* a `Task` or a `Dictionary` or the Observer pattern is, but *why* it works the way it does, what its alternatives cost, and when to choose one approach over another — because that is what the book's answers actually do: they don't stop at a definition, they walk through the mechanism and the tradeoff.

The manuscript moves through a deliberate progression rather than a random topic list. It opens with the platform itself — a chronological tour of .NET's evolution from the original Framework through .NET 10 and C# 14, so you can place any feature in its historical and version context — before moving into C# language fundamentals in depth. From there it builds through the two chapters most interviewers treat as a baseline filter: data structures (arrays through graphs, with real traversal and shortest-path algorithms) and algorithms (sorting, searching, and dynamic programming, worked in full). It then turns to how code should be *designed*, not just written — object-oriented principles, SOLID, clean-code practice, and a full catalog of 23 classic design patterns with working implementations. The middle of the book addresses what happens once code runs at scale: memory management and performance, working with SQL Server and ORMs, the language internals underneath reflection and compilation, and system design and architecture for distributed, highly available systems. The closing chapters cover the concerns that separate someone who can write correct code from someone who can ship it responsibly: concurrency and multithreading, testing and test automation, building and securing Web APIs in ASP.NET Core, deploying and operating on Azure, and defending an application against the security issues interviewers most often ask about.

You can use this book two ways, and both are intentional. Read front to back, it functions as a structured, multi-week interview-preparation course that assumes progressively more context as it goes. Used as a reference, each chapter and section stands on its own — if you have an interview scheduled around system design or Web API security specifically, you can go directly to that chapter without having read the rest. Many readers will do both: an initial full pass, followed by targeted review of whichever chapters map to an upcoming interview loop.

The prerequisite is straightforward: working professional or near-professional familiarity with C# and the willingness to read code, not just prose — nearly every section includes a runnable example, and the explanations are written to be read alongside the code, not instead of it. No prior exposure to Azure, distributed systems, or advanced algorithms is assumed; those topics are explained as they're introduced.

By the time you've worked through the material relevant to your situation, you should be able to do more than recite definitions under pressure. You should be able to compare two reasonable approaches to a problem and explain the tradeoff out loud, justify a design decision instead of just naming it, and recognize when an interviewer's question is really asking about judgment rather than a fact you either know or don't. That is the actual skill this book is built to develop — the rest is up to the conversation you have.

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Contents

Preface i

1 C# Fundamentals **1**

1.1 C# Basics 1

1.2 Delegates and Parameters 12

1.3 Value Types, Reference Types, Immutable, Semantics 20

1.4 Types and Type Differences 28

1.5 Collections and LINQ 37

1 | C# Fundamentals

Mastery of C# fundamentals is a pivotal factor in securing a role within the .NET ecosystem. During technical interviews, employers frequently assess candidates on their comprehension of core language features, including data types, operators, control flow, and object-oriented principles. Demonstrating proficiency in these areas not only indicates a solid foundation but also signals the capacity to learn and integrate more advanced concepts.

A thorough understanding of these key elements is particularly valuable in today's competitive job market, where coding assessments and conceptual discussions have become standard. By fortifying your expertise in C# fundamentals, you position yourself to navigate a variety of technical challenges confidently, display adept problem-solving skills, and ultimately distinguish yourself as a strong candidate in any interview setting.

1.1 C# Basics

What is the difference between `const` and `readonly` in C#, and when would you use each?

`const` is a compile-time constant, meaning its value is fixed and known at compile-time and cannot be modified. It must be initialized at the time of declaration. On the other hand, `readonly` is a runtime constant, which can be assigned either at the time of declaration or within a constructor. `readonly` allows you to set values dynamically during object instantiation but prevents modification after that.

Listing 1.1: Example: What is the difference between `const` and `readonly` in C#, and when would you use each

```
public class Constants
{
    public const int MaxSize = 100; // Must be assigned at compile time
    public readonly int MinSize;    // Can be assigned at runtime

    public Constants(int minSize)
    {
        MinSize = minSize; // Allowed in constructor
    }
```

```
}
```

What is the difference between `abstract` classes and `interfaces` in C#, and when would you use each?

An `abstract` class can provide both implementation and abstract members (methods or properties without implementation), while an `interface` can only define method signatures (starting with C# 8.0, interfaces can also have default implementations). You use an abstract class when classes share common behavior, but you want to force them to implement certain methods. Use an interface when you want to define a contract for behavior without prescribing any specific implementation.

Listing 1.2: Example: What is the difference between `abstract` classes and `interfaces` in C#, and when would you use each

```
// Abstract class with a method implementation
public abstract class Shape
{
    public abstract double Area(); // Abstract method
    public void Display() => Console.WriteLine("I am a shape");
}

// Interface with method signature
public interface IShape
{
    double Area();
}

// Class that extends an abstract class
public class Circle : Shape
{
    public double Radius { get; set; }
    public override double Area() => Math.PI * Radius * Radius;
}

// Class that implements an interface
public class Rectangle : IShape
{
    public double Length { get; set; }
    public double Width { get; set; }
    public double Area() => Length * Width;
}
```

What are extension methods in C# and how do they work?

Extension methods allow you to add new methods to existing types without modifying the original type or creating a new derived type. Extension methods are defined as static methods in a static class, and they use the `this` keyword in their first parameter to specify the type they extend.

Listing 1.3: Example: What are extension methods in C# and how do they work

```
public static class StringExtensions
{
    // Extension method for the string class
    public static bool IsNullOrEmpty(this string str)
    {
        return string.IsNullOrEmpty(str);
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        string message = "Hello, World!";
        bool result = message.IsNullOrEmpty(); // Using the extension method
        Console.WriteLine(result); // Outputs False
    }
}
```

What is the purpose of the `lock` statement in C#, and how does it prevent threading issues?

The `lock` statement in C# is used to ensure that a block of code is executed by only one thread at a time. It helps prevent **race conditions** by ensuring that only one thread can access the locked section of code. `lock` is typically used in scenarios where shared resources need to be accessed by multiple threads simultaneously.

Listing 1.4: Example: What is the purpose of the `lock` statement in C#, and how does it prevent threading issues

```
public class Counter
{
    private int _count = 0;
    private readonly object _lock = new object();

    public void Increment()
    {
        // Only one thread can execute this block at a time
        lock (_lock)
        {
            _count++;
        }
    }

    public int GetCount()
    {
        return _count;
    }
}
```

What is covariance and contravariance in C#, and how do they apply to generics?

Covariance allows a method to return a more derived type than originally specified, while contravariance allows a method to accept parameters that are less derived than originally specified. In C#, covariance and contravariance are used with generics, delegates, and interfaces. They allow you to implicitly convert types in inheritance hierarchies.

Listing 1.5: Example: What is covariance and contravariance in C#, and how do they apply to generics

```
// Covariance: Returning a derived type
public interface ICovariant<out T> { }
public class Animal { }
public class Dog : Animal { }

// Contravariance: Accepting a base type
public interface IContravariant<in T> { }

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Covariance example: ICovariant<Animal> can hold ICovariant<Dog>
        ICovariant<Animal> animals = new ICovariant<Dog>();

        // Contravariance example: IContravariant<Dog> can hold IContravariant<Animal>
        IContravariant<Dog> dogs = new IContravariant<Animal>();
    }
}
```

What are expression-bodied members in C# and when would you use them?

Expression-bodied members allow concise syntax for methods, properties, and other members when the implementation is a single expression. They simplify the code and enhance readability.

Listing 1.6: Example: What are expression-bodied members in C# and when would you use them

```
public class Circle
{
    public double Radius { get; set; }

    // Expression-bodied property
    public double Area => Math.PI * Radius * Radius;

    // Expression-bodied method
    public double Circumference() => 2 * Math.PI * Radius;
}
```

What is the difference between `Task` and `Thread` in C#?

A `Task` represents an asynchronous operation and is part of the **Task Parallel Library** (**TPL**). Tasks are higher-level abstractions over threads and provide better control over asynchronous

code execution. A `Thread`, on the other hand, represents an individual thread of execution. Tasks are preferred for background work, as they are more efficient and offer more features such as cancellation and continuation.

Listing 1.7: Example: What is the difference between `Task` and `Thread` in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Using Task for asynchronous work
        Task.Run(() => DoWork());

        // Using Thread for lower-level threading
        Thread thread = new Thread(DoWork);
        thread.Start();
    }

    static void DoWork()
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Work is being done.");
    }
}
```

What are async and await in C#, and how do they improve the responsiveness of your application?

`async` and `await` are used to write asynchronous code in a more readable, sequential manner. They allow you to run code asynchronously without blocking the main thread, improving the responsiveness of applications, particularly in GUI and web applications.

Listing 1.8: Example: What are async and await in C#, and how do they improve the responsiveness of your application

```
public async Task<int> FetchDataAsync()
{
    // Asynchronous call to simulate data fetching
    await Task.Delay(2000);
    return 42;
}

class Program
{
    static async Task Main(string[] args)
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Fetching data...");
        int result = await FetchDataAsync();
        Console.WriteLine($"Data fetched: {result}");
    }
}
```

What are delegates in C#, and how do they differ from events?

A delegate is a type that represents references to methods with a specific signature. Delegates are used to define callback methods. Events are a special kind of delegate that are typically used for notifications. Events provide a layer of abstraction that restricts the ability to invoke the delegate from outside the class where the event is defined.

Listing 1.9: Example: What are delegates in C#, and how do they differ from events

```
// Delegate definition
public delegate void Notify();

// Publisher class
public class ProcessBusinessLogic
{
    public event Notify ProcessCompleted;

    public void StartProcess()
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Process started.");
        // Raise event
        OnProcessCompleted();
    }

    protected virtual void OnProcessCompleted()
    {
        ProcessCompleted?.Invoke();
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main(string[] args)
    {
        ProcessBusinessLogic bl = new ProcessBusinessLogic();
        bl.ProcessCompleted += () => Console.WriteLine("Process completed.");
        bl.StartProcess();
    }
}
```

What is `IDisposable` and the purpose of the `using` statement in C#?

`IDisposable` is an interface that provides a mechanism for releasing unmanaged resources. The `using` statement ensures that `Dispose` is called on an object that implements `IDisposable`, typically to release file handles, database connections, or network resources. The `using` block automatically calls `Dispose` at the end of the block.

Listing 1.10: Example: What is `IDisposable` and the purpose of the `using` statement in C#

```
public class Resource : IDisposable
{
    public void Dispose()
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Resources have been released.");
```

```
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        using (var resource = new Resource())
        {
            // Work with the resource
        } // Automatically calls Dispose here
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `IEnumerable` and `IQueryable` in C#?

`IEnumerable` is used for in-memory collection manipulation and deferred execution. It processes data in-memory and is best for working with data already in memory, like lists or arrays. `IQueryable` is used for querying data from external sources like databases, where query execution happens at the data source. It supports efficient query translation, like converting LINQ to SQL.

Listing 1.11: Example: What is the difference between `IEnumerable` and `IQueryable` in C#

```
IEnumerable<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
var evenNumbers = numbers.Where(n => n % 2 == 0); // In-memory filtering

IQueryable<int> queryableNumbers = numbers.AsQueryable();
var queryableEvenNumbers = queryableNumbers.Where(n => n % 2 == 0); // Potentially optimized filtering
```

What is `Dependency Injection` in C#, and how is it implemented?

Dependency Injection (DI) is a design pattern used to reduce tight coupling between classes by providing dependencies from the outside. In C#, DI is commonly implemented using frameworks like ASP.NET Core's built-in DI container. You register services with the DI container and inject them into classes that depend on them via constructors or methods.

Listing 1.12: Example: What is `Dependency Injection` in C#, and how is it implemented

```
public interface ILogger
{
    void Log(string message);
}

public class ConsoleLogger : ILogger
{
    public void Log(string message) => Console.WriteLine(message);
}

public class Application
{
    private readonly ILogger _logger;

```

```
    public Application(ILogger logger) => _logger = logger;

    public void Run() => _logger.Log("Application running.");
}

// Registering and resolving dependencies using a DI container in ASP.NET Core
// services.AddSingleton<ILogger, ConsoleLogger>();
// services.AddTransient<Application>();
```

What is the difference between `finalize` and `dispose` in C#?

`Dispose` is a method from the `IDisposable` interface used to release unmanaged resources manually and deterministically. `Finalize` (or a destructor) is used by the garbage collector to release unmanaged resources when the object is being collected. `Dispose` should be used for explicit resource management, while `Finalize` is a safety net.

Listing 1.13: Example: What is the difference between `finalize` and `dispose` in C#

```
public class Resource : IDisposable
{
    // Dispose for explicit resource management
    public void Dispose()
    {
        // Clean up resources
    }

    // Destructor as a fallback cleanup
    ~Resource()
    {
        Dispose();
    }
}
```

What is the `volatile` keyword in C#, and when would you use it?

The `volatile` keyword is used on fields that are accessed by multiple threads. It ensures that the most up-to-date value of the variable is always read by the threads, preventing optimizations that might cause stale values to be used.

Listing 1.14: Example: What is the `volatile` keyword in C#, and when would you use it

```
public class Worker
{
    private volatile bool _isRunning = true;

    public void Stop()
    {
        _isRunning = false;
    }

    public void DoWork()
    {
        while (_isRunning)
```

```
        {
            // Perform some work
        }
    }
}
```

What are `Func`, `Action`, and `Predicate` delegates in C#?

- `Func<T, TResult>` is a delegate that takes parameters and returns a value.
- `Action<T>` is a delegate that takes parameters but returns nothing.
- `Predicate<T>` is a delegate that returns a boolean and takes a single parameter.

Listing 1.15: Example: What are `Func`, `Action`, and `Predicate` delegates in C#

```
Func<int, int, int> add = (a, b) => a + b; // Takes two integers and returns an integer
Action<string> print = message => Console.WriteLine(message); // Takes a string and returns nothing
Predicate<int> isEven = number => number % 2 == 0; // Returns true if the number is even
```

What are asynchronous streams in C# and how do they work?

Asynchronous streams, introduced in C# 8.0, allow you to iterate over asynchronous data sources using `await foreach`. They are useful when data is being fetched or generated asynchronously and you want to process items as they become available.

Listing 1.16: Example: What are asynchronous streams in C# and how do they work

```
public async IAsyncEnumerable<int> GetNumbersAsync()
{
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    {
        await Task.Delay(1000); // Simulating async work
        yield return i;
    }
}

public async Task ProcessNumbersAsync()
{
    await foreach (var number in GetNumbersAsync())
    {
        Console.WriteLine(number); // Outputs numbers as they are produced
    }
}
```

What is `boxing` and `unboxing` in C#? Why is it important?

Boxing is the process of converting a value type (e.g., int) to an object type. Unboxing is the reverse, where an object is cast back to a value type. Boxing and unboxing introduce performance overhead because boxing allocates memory on the heap and unboxing requires type casting.

Listing 1.17: Example: What is `boxing` and `unboxing` in C#? Why is it important

```
int value = 42;
object boxedValue = value; // Boxing: storing value type in object (heap)
int unboxedValue = (int)boxedValue; // Unboxing: converting back to value type
```

How does the `async` / `await` mechanism handle exceptions in C#?

When using `async` / `await`, exceptions thrown during asynchronous code execution are captured and re-thrown when `await` is called. You can handle exceptions using standard `try-catch` blocks around `await` statements.

Listing 1.18: Example: How does the `async` / `await` mechanism handle exceptions in C#

```
public async Task FetchDataAsync()
{
    try
    {
        await Task.Run(() => throw new InvalidOperationException("An error occurred"));
    }
    catch (InvalidOperationException ex)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"Exception caught: {ex.Message}");
    }
}
```

What are tuples in C#, and how are they used?

Tuples in C# are a lightweight data structure used to group multiple values. C# 7.0 introduced **value tuples**, which are mutable and allow naming of fields.

Listing 1.19: Example: What are tuples in C#, and how are they used

```
public (int, string) GetPerson()
{
    return (1, "John Doe"); // Returning a tuple
}

var person = GetPerson();
Console.WriteLine($"ID: {person.Item1}, Name: {person.Item2}");
```

What is the difference between `Thread.Sleep` and `Task.Delay` in C#?

`Thread.Sleep` blocks the current thread for a specified duration, freezing the execution of the thread. `Task.Delay` asynchronously waits for a specified duration without blocking the current thread, allowing other tasks to run in the meantime. `Task.Delay` is preferable in asynchronous programming to avoid blocking resources.

Listing 1.20: Example: What is the difference between `Thread.Sleep` and `Task.Delay` in C#

```
// Thread.Sleep blocks the current thread
```

```
Thread.Sleep(1000); // Blocks for 1 second

// Task.Delay allows other tasks to run while waiting
await Task.Delay(1000); // Non-blocking 1-second delay in async code
```

What problems does null-conditional assignment solve in C# 14?

Null-conditional assignment reduces repetitive null checks when assigning into nested object graphs. It improves readability and helps prevent missing guard conditions in deep object updates.

When should you prefer `nameof(List<>)` over string literals in generic C# code?

Use `nameof` for logs, exceptions, diagnostics, and metadata keys tied to type names. It is compile-time checked and refactor-safe, unlike hard-coded strings.

How do field-backed properties in C# 14 improve encapsulation?

Field-backed properties keep validation logic directly in accessors while avoiding manual backing-field boilerplate. This keeps domain rules explicit and easier to maintain.

What are extension members in C# 14, and when are they useful?

Extension members generalize extension methods by allowing additional member-like behavior on existing types without modifying source code. They are useful when you need reusable APIs for types you do not own.

How do you decide whether migrating from .NET 8 or .NET 9 to .NET 10 is worth it?

Evaluate compatibility, benchmark real workload performance, validate startup and memory behavior in containers, and run regression tests in CI/CD. A phased rollout with measurable results is the safest migration approach.

1.2 Delegates and Parameters

What is the difference between a delegate and an event in C#?

A delegate is a type that represents references to methods with a specific signature, while an event is a special form of delegate used to provide notifications. Delegates allow direct invocation, whereas events restrict method invocation to the class that declares the event, thus providing encapsulation and safety.

Listing 1.21: Example: What is the difference between a delegate and an event in C#

```
// Delegate declaration
public delegate void Notify();

// Publisher class
public class Process
{
    // Event declaration using delegate
    public event Notify ProcessCompleted;

    public void StartProcess()
    {
        Console.WriteLine("Process started.");
        OnProcessCompleted();
    }

    protected virtual void OnProcessCompleted()
    {
        // Invoking the event
        ProcessCompleted?.Invoke();
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main(string[] args)
    {
        Process process = new Process();
        process.ProcessCompleted += () => Console.WriteLine("Process completed!");
        process.StartProcess(); // Outputs "Process started." followed by "Process completed!"
    }
}
```

How do multicast delegates work in C# and what are the potential pitfalls?

Multicast delegates can reference multiple methods. When invoked, all the methods are called in order. If any method in the invocation list throws an exception, the remaining methods are not called. Also, return values from methods in the delegate chain, except for the last one, are ignored.

Listing 1.22: Example: How do multicast delegates work in C# and what are the potential pitfalls

```
public delegate void Notify();

// Example of multicast delegate
class Program
{
    public static void Method1() => Console.WriteLine("Method1 executed");
    public static void Method2() => Console.WriteLine("Method2 executed");

    static void Main()
    {
        Notify notify = Method1;
        notify += Method2;

        // Invokes Method1 and Method2
        notify.Invoke(); // Outputs: Method1 executed, Method2 executed
    }
}
```

How can you pass a delegate as a parameter to a method in C#?

A delegate can be passed as a parameter to a method in C#. This allows the method to receive and invoke the delegate at runtime, which provides flexibility in method execution.

Listing 1.23: Example: How can you pass a delegate as a parameter to a method in C#

```
public delegate void ProcessDelegate(int x);

class Program
{
    // Method accepting delegate as parameter
    public static void Execute(ProcessDelegate process, int value)
    {
        process.Invoke(value);
    }

    public static void Print(int x) => Console.WriteLine($"Value: {x}");

    static void Main()
    {
        ProcessDelegate del = Print;
        Execute(del, 5); // Outputs: Value: 5
    }
}
```

What are anonymous methods in C# and how do they relate to delegates?

Anonymous methods provide a way to define a delegate inline, without the need for a separate method declaration. They are defined using the `delegate` keyword and can access variables in the surrounding scope.

Listing 1.24: Example: What are anonymous methods in C# and how do they relate to delegates

```
public delegate void ProcessDelegate(int x);

```

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Anonymous method assigned to delegate
        ProcessDelegate del = delegate(int x) {
            Console.WriteLine($"Anonymous method executed with value: {x}");
        };

        del.Invoke(10); // Outputs: Anonymous method executed with value: 10
    }
}
```

What is a callback in C#, and how is it implemented using delegates?

A callback is a method passed as a delegate to another method, which will invoke the delegate after completing its work. This is a common pattern for asynchronous or deferred execution in C#.

Listing 1.25: Example: What is a callback in C#, and how is it implemented using delegates

```
public delegate void CallbackDelegate(int result);

class Program
{
    // Method that takes a callback delegate
    public static void PerformCalculation(int a, int b, CallbackDelegate callback)
    {
        int result = a + b;
        callback(result); // Invoking the callback with the result
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        PerformCalculation(3, 4, result => Console.WriteLine($"Callback executed with result: {result}"));
        // Outputs: Callback executed with result: 7
    }
}
```

What are covariance and contravariance in relation to delegates in C#?

Covariance allows a delegate to return a more derived type than specified, while contravariance allows a delegate to accept parameters that are less derived than specified. These are used to maintain flexibility when working with inheritance and delegates.

Listing 1.26: Example: What are covariance and contravariance in relation to delegates in C#

```
public class Animal { }
public class Dog : Animal { }

public delegate Animal AnimalHandler();
public delegate void DogHandler(Dog dog);

```

```
class Program
{
    static Animal HandleAnimal() => new Dog(); // Covariance: returning a derived type
    static void HandleDog(Animal animal) { /* Contravariance: accepting base type */ }

    static void Main()
    {
        AnimalHandler animalDelegate = HandleAnimal; // Covariance
        DogHandler dogDelegate = HandleDog; // Contravariance
    }
}
```

How do you implement a generic delegate in C#?

Generic delegates allow you to define a delegate where the parameter and return types can vary, providing flexibility for different data types without duplicating code.

Listing 1.27: Example: How do you implement a generic delegate in C#

```
public delegate T Process<T>(T input);

class Program
{
    public static int Square(int x) => x * x;
    public static string Reverse(string s) => new string(s.Reverse().ToArray());

    static void Main()
    {
        Process<int> processInt = Square;
        Process<string> processString = Reverse;

        Console.WriteLine(processInt(5)); // Outputs: 25
        Console.WriteLine(processString("hello")); // Outputs: "olleh"
    }
}
```

How does the `Action` delegate work in C#, and how is it used?

The `Action` delegate represents a method that takes one or more input parameters but does not return a value. It is commonly used for methods that perform actions or side effects.

Listing 1.28: Example: How does the `Action` delegate work in C#, and how is it used

```
class Program
{
    static void PrintMessage(string message) => Console.WriteLine(message);

    static void Main()
    {
        Action<string> action = PrintMessage;
        action.Invoke("Hello, World!"); // Outputs: Hello, World!
    }
}
```

How does the `Func` delegate work in C#, and how is it used?

The `Func` delegate represents a method that takes input parameters and returns a value. It is used when you need to pass a method that both accepts arguments and returns a value.

Listing 1.29: Example: How does the `Func` delegate work in C#, and how is it used

```
class Program
{
    static int Square(int x) => x * x;

    static void Main()
    {
        Func<int, int> func = Square;
        int result = func.Invoke(5); // Outputs: 25
        Console.WriteLine(result);
    }
}
```

How does the `Predicate` delegate work in C#, and how is it used?

The `Predicate` delegate represents a method that takes a single parameter and returns a boolean. It is typically used for filtering or evaluating conditions in collections.

Listing 1.30: Example: How does the `Predicate` delegate work in C#, and how is it used

```
class Program
{
    static bool IsEven(int number) => number % 2 == 0;

    static void Main()
    {
        Predicate<int> predicate = IsEven;
        bool result = predicate.Invoke(4); // Outputs: True
        Console.WriteLine(result);
    }
}
```

How can you combine multiple delegates into a single delegate invocation?

Delegates can be combined using the `+` operator to create a multicast delegate. When invoked, all methods in the invocation list are executed.

Listing 1.31: Example: How can you combine multiple delegates into a single delegate invocation

```
public delegate void Notify();

class Program
{
    static void Method1() => Console.WriteLine("Method1 executed");
    static void Method2() => Console.WriteLine("Method2 executed");

    static void Main()
```

```
    {
        Notify notify = Method1;
        notify += Method2;

        notify.Invoke(); // Outputs: Method1 executed, Method2 executed
    }
}
```

How do you create an event using a delegate in C#, and how do you subscribe to it?

You can create an event using a delegate by declaring the event with the delegate type. Clients can then subscribe to the event using the `+=` operator and unsubscribe using the `-=` operator.

Listing 1.32: Example: How do you create an event using a delegate in C#, and how do you subscribe to it

```
public delegate void ProcessCompleted();

class Process
{
    public event ProcessCompleted OnProcessCompleted;

    public void StartProcess()
    {
        // Simulating work
        OnProcessCompleted?.Invoke(); // Trigger the event
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        Process process = new Process();
        process.OnProcessCompleted += () => Console.WriteLine("Process completed!");
        process.StartProcess(); // Outputs: Process completed!
    }
}
```

How can you use a lambda expression with a delegate in C#?

Lambda expressions provide a concise syntax for creating delegates inline. They can be used wherever a delegate is required, offering a compact way to define methods.

Listing 1.33: Example: How can you use a lambda expression with a delegate in C#

```
public delegate int Calculate(int x, int y);

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Lambda expression for addition
```

```
        Calculate add = (x, y) => x + y;
        Console.WriteLine(add(3, 4)); // Outputs: 7
    }
}
```

How does the `params` keyword work when passing parameters in C#?

The `params` keyword allows you to pass a variable number of arguments to a method. The method treats the `params` parameter as an array, but you can pass individual arguments without explicitly creating an array.

Listing 1.34: Example: How does the `params` keyword work when passing parameters in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void PrintNumbers(params int[] numbers)
    {
        foreach (int number in numbers)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(number);
        }
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        PrintNumbers(1, 2, 3, 4, 5); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
    }
}
```

How can you use the `ref` and `out` keywords to modify parameters in C#?

The `ref` keyword allows a method to modify the value of a parameter passed by reference. The `out` keyword also allows modification but requires the parameter to be assigned within the method before use.

Listing 1.35: Example: How can you use the `ref` and `out` keywords to modify parameters in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void ModifyValue(ref int value)
    {
        value = 20; // Modifying the reference
    }

    static void InitializeValue(out int value)
    {
        value = 30; // Must assign a value before exiting
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        int number = 10;
        ModifyValue(ref number);
```

```
        Console.WriteLine(number); // Outputs: 20

        InitializeValue(out number);
        Console.WriteLine(number); // Outputs: 30
    }
}
```

How do you implement a callback using delegates for asynchronous methods in C#?

A delegate can be used as a callback for asynchronous operations. After the operation completes, the callback delegate is invoked to handle the result.

Listing 1.36: Example: How do you implement a callback using delegates for asynchronous methods in C#

```
public delegate void CallbackDelegate(int result);

class Program
{
    public static void PerformCalculationAsync(int a, int b, CallbackDelegate callback)
    {
        Task.Run(() =>
        {
            int result = a + b;
            callback(result); // Invoke callback after calculation
        });
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        PerformCalculationAsync(3, 4, result => Console.WriteLine($"Result: {result}")); // Outputs: Result: 7
    }
}
```

What are named and optional parameters in C#, and how do they work?

Named parameters allow you to specify the value of a specific parameter by name rather than by position. Optional parameters provide default values if arguments are not passed, allowing methods to be called with fewer parameters than declared.

Listing 1.37: Example: What are named and optional parameters in C#, and how do they work

```
class Program
{
    static void PrintMessage(string message, string prefix = "Info")
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"{prefix}: {message}");
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        // Using named parameters
```

```
        PrintMessage(message: "Operation completed", prefix: "Success");
        // Using optional parameter
        PrintMessage("Default message"); // Prefix defaults to "Info"
    }
}
```

How do you handle multiple parameters in delegates using tuple types in C#?

You can use tuples to pass multiple parameters through a delegate. This approach simplifies passing multiple values without needing to create a custom class or struct.

Listing 1.38: Example: How do you handle multiple parameters in delegates using tuple types in C#

```
public delegate void ProcessDelegate((int, int) data);

class Program
{
    static void PrintValues((int a, int b) data)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"a: {data.a}, b: {data.b}");
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        ProcessDelegate del = PrintValues;
        del.Invoke((5, 10)); // Outputs: a: 5, b: 10
    }
}
```

1.3 Value Types, Reference Types, Immutable, Semantics

What is the difference between value types and reference types in C#?

Value types store the actual data and are stored on the stack, while reference types store a reference to the data (a memory address) and are stored on the heap. Value types are copied when assigned to another variable, while reference types share the same memory reference.

Listing 1.39: Example: What is the difference between value types and reference types in C#

```
struct ValueTypeExample
{
    public int x;
}

class ReferenceTypeExample
{
    public int x;
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
```

```
    {
        // Value type
        ValueTypeExample v1 = new ValueTypeExample { x = 10 };
        ValueTypeExample v2 = v1; // v2 is a copy of v1
        v2.x = 20; // Changes only v2, v1 remains unchanged

        // Reference type
        ReferenceTypeExample r1 = new ReferenceTypeExample { x = 10 };
        ReferenceTypeExample r2 = r1; // r2 references the same object as r1
        r2.x = 20; // Changes affect both r1 and r2

        Console.WriteLine($"Value Type: v1.x = {v1.x}, v2.x = {v2.x}");
        Console.WriteLine($"Reference Type: r1.x = {r1.x}, r2.x = {r2.x}");
    }
}
```

How does boxing and unboxing work in C#?

Boxing is the process of converting a value type to an object, which stores the value on the heap. Unboxing is the reverse, where an object is cast back to a value type. Boxing incurs a performance cost because it involves heap allocation.

Listing 1.40: Example: How does boxing and unboxing work in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int value = 123;
        object boxed = value; // Boxing: value type to object
        int unboxed = (int)boxed; // Unboxing: object back to value type

        Console.WriteLine($"Boxed: {boxed}, Unboxed: {unboxed}");
    }
}
```

What is the difference between mutable and immutable types in C#?

Mutable types can be modified after creation, whereas immutable types cannot be changed once created. Strings are an example of an immutable type, while most custom objects are mutable unless explicitly designed to be immutable.

Listing 1.41: Example: What is the difference between mutable and immutable types in C#

```
class MutableClass
{
    public int Value { get; set; }
}

class ImmutableClass
{
    public int Value { get; }

```

```
    public ImmutableClass(int value)
    {
        Value = value;
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var mutable = new MutableClass { Value = 10 };
        mutable.Value = 20; // Can change after creation

        var immutable = new ImmutableClass(10);
        // immutable.Value = 20; // Error: Cannot assign to 'Value' because it is read-only
    }
}
```

What are the performance implications of value types vs. reference types?

Value types are stored on the stack and can lead to better performance for small data because they avoid heap allocations. However, copying large value types can be expensive. Reference types are stored on the heap and managed by the garbage collector, which can introduce overhead.

Listing 1.42: Example: What are the performance implications of value types vs. reference types

```
struct PointValueType
{
    public int X, Y;
}

class PointReferenceType
{
    public int X, Y;
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Value type: Faster for small structs but copies all data
        PointValueType p1 = new PointValueType { X = 10, Y = 20 };
        PointValueType p2 = p1; // Full copy of the data
        p2.X = 30;

        // Reference type: More efficient for large objects, but managed by GC
        PointReferenceType r1 = new PointReferenceType { X = 10, Y = 20 };
        PointReferenceType r2 = r1; // Reference to the same object
        r2.X = 30;
    }
}
```

How do structs and classes differ in terms of copying semantics in C#?

Structs are value types, meaning they are copied by value. When you assign one struct to another, the entire content is copied. Classes are reference types, so when one class instance is assigned to another, only the reference is copied.

Listing 1.43: Example: How do structs and classes differ in terms of copying semantics in C#

```
struct StructExample
{
    public int X;
}

class ClassExample
{
    public int X;
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        StructExample s1 = new StructExample { X = 10 };
        StructExample s2 = s1; // Copies the entire struct
        s2.X = 20; // s1.X remains 10

        ClassExample c1 = new ClassExample { X = 10 };
        ClassExample c2 = c1; // Copies the reference
        c2.X = 20; // c1.X is also 20, since both c1 and c2 reference the same object
    }
}
```

What are the common pitfalls of using mutable reference types in C#?

The common pitfalls include unintended side effects where modifying one reference type instance affects others that share the same reference, leading to difficult-to-track bugs. This occurs because reference types are passed by reference by default.

Listing 1.44: Example: What are the common pitfalls of using mutable reference types in C#

```
class MutableExample
{
    public int Value { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        MutableExample obj1 = new MutableExample { Value = 10 };
        MutableExample obj2 = obj1; // obj2 references the same object as obj1
        obj2.Value = 20; // Changing obj2.Value also changes obj1.Value

        Console.WriteLine($"obj1.Value: {obj1.Value}"); // Outputs 20
    }
```

```
}
```

How does the `in` parameter modifier affect value types in C#?

The `in` keyword is used to pass value types by reference but prevents modification. It is especially useful for passing large structs without copying them while ensuring the callee cannot modify the value.

Listing 1.45: Example: How does the `in` parameter modifier affect value types in C#

```
struct LargeStruct
{
    public int X;
    public int Y;
}

class Program
{
    static void DisplayCoordinates(in LargeStruct point)
    {
        // point.X = 10; // Error: Cannot modify because of 'in' keyword
        Console.WriteLine($"X: {point.X}, Y: {point.Y}");
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        LargeStruct point = new LargeStruct { X = 5, Y = 10 };
        DisplayCoordinates(in point); // Passed by reference, but not modifiable
    }
}
```

What are the key differences between shallow copy and deep copy in C#?

A shallow copy duplicates the top-level object, but any references within that object still point to the original objects. A deep copy duplicates the object and all the objects it references, creating an entirely independent copy.

Listing 1.46: Example: What are the key differences between shallow copy and deep copy in C#

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public Address Address { get; set; }
}

class Address
{
    public string City { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
```

```
    {
        // Shallow copy
        Person person1 = new Person { Name = "John", Address = new Address { City = "NY" } };
        Person person2 = person1; // Shallow copy
        person2.Address.City = "LA"; // Changes the Address of person1 as well

        Console.WriteLine($"Person1 City: {person1.Address.City}"); // Outputs LA
    }
}
```

How does the `ref` keyword affect the behavior of reference and value types when passed as parameters?

The `ref` keyword allows both value and reference types to be passed by reference, enabling modifications within the method to affect the original variable.

Listing 1.47: Example: How does the `ref` keyword affect the behavior of reference and value types when passed as parameters

```
class Program
{
    static void ModifyValue(ref int value)
    {
        value = 20; // Modifies the original value
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        int number = 10;
        ModifyValue(ref number); // Passing by reference
        Console.WriteLine(number); // Outputs 20
    }
}
```

What are tuples in C#, and are they value types or reference types?

Tuples are a data structure used to store a sequence of values. In C# 7.0 and later, tuples are value types and provide a lightweight way to return multiple values from a method. They are mutable but considered value types.

Listing 1.48: Example: What are tuples in C#, and are they value types or reference types

```
class Program
{
    static (int, string) GetData()
    {
        return (1, "example"); // Returns a tuple
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        var tuple = GetData();
        Console.WriteLine($"ID: {tuple.Item1}, Name: {tuple.Item2}"); // Outputs: ID: 1, Name: example
    }
```

```
}
```

What is semantic meaning in C#, and how does it differ from syntax?

Semantics refers to the meaning or behavior of the code when executed, while syntax refers to the rules governing how the code is written. Correct syntax doesn't always guarantee correct semantics. For example, the code may compile but still produce incorrect results due to logical errors.

Listing 1.49: Example: What is semantic meaning in C#, and how does it differ from syntax

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int x = 5;
        int y = 0;

        // Correct syntax, but incorrect semantics (division by zero)
        int result = x / y; // This will throw a runtime exception
    }
}
```

How can you implement immutability in C# for custom objects?

To implement immutability, you need to make all fields `readonly` and avoid providing `set` accessors for properties. All fields should be initialized in the constructor.

Listing 1.50: Example: How can you implement immutability in C# for custom objects

```
class ImmutablePerson
{
    public string Name { get; }
    public int Age { get; }

    public ImmutablePerson(string name, int age)
    {
        Name = name;
        Age = age;
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var person = new ImmutablePerson("John", 30);
        // person.Age = 31; // Error: Cannot modify because the property is readonly
    }
}
```

How does the garbage collector handle value types and reference types differently?

Value types are typically stored on the stack and are automatically reclaimed when they go out of scope. Reference types are stored on the heap, and the garbage collector is responsible for reclaiming memory when they are no longer referenced.

Listing 1.51: Example: How does the garbage collector handle value types and reference types differently

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Value type (stored on stack)
        int value = 10;

        // Reference type (stored on heap)
        object reference = new object();

        // The garbage collector will automatically clean up reference when no longer in use.
    }
}
```

Why should you avoid using mutable value types in C#?

Mutable value types can lead to unexpected behavior because they are copied by value. Changes made to a copy do not affect the original, which can be confusing in certain contexts like collection manipulation.

Listing 1.52: Example: Why should you avoid using mutable value types in C#

```
struct MutableStruct
{
    public int Value;
}

class Program
{
    static void ModifyStruct(MutableStruct s)
    {
        s.Value = 20; // This change affects only the local copy
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        MutableStruct s = new MutableStruct { Value = 10 };
        ModifyStruct(s);
        Console.WriteLine(s.Value); // Outputs: 10, since the original was not modified
    }
}
```

What is `readonly struct` in C#, and when would you use it?

A `readonly struct` ensures that all fields within the struct are immutable after initialization. It improves performance by avoiding unnecessary defensive copies when passing the struct by reference.

Listing 1.53: Example: What is `readonly struct` in C#, and when would you use it

```
readonly struct ReadonlyPoint
{
    public int X { get; }
    public int Y { get; }

    public ReadonlyPoint(int x, int y)
    {
        X = x;
        Y = y;
    }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        ReadonlyPoint point = new ReadonlyPoint(10, 20);
        // point.X = 30; // Error: Cannot modify readonly field
    }
}
```

What are default values for value types and reference types in C#?

Value types have default values based on their type (e.g., `0` for `int`, `false` for `bool`), whereas reference types default to `null`.

Listing 1.54: Example: What are default values for value types and reference types in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int defaultValue = default(int); // Outputs 0
        object defaultReference = default(object); // Outputs null

        Console.WriteLine($"Default value type: {defaultValue}");
        Console.WriteLine($"Default reference type: {defaultReference}");
    }
}
```

1.4 Types and Type Differences

What is the difference between `int` and `Int32` in C#?

`int` is an alias for `System.Int32` in C#. Both represent a 32-bit signed integer and are functionally identical. The alias exists for convenience and readability in the C# language.

Listing 1.55: Example: What is the difference between `int` and `Int32` in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int a = 10;
        Int32 b = 20; // Both are the same, ‘int‘ is an alias for ‘Int32‘
        Console.WriteLine(a + b); // Outputs 30
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `float`, `double`, and `decimal` in C#? When would you use each?

- **float:** 32-bit single-precision floating-point type, used for fractional numbers where precision is less critical.
- **double:** 64-bit double-precision floating-point type, for most general-purpose calculations.
- **decimal:** 128-bit high-precision floating-point type, ideal for financial calculations requiring high accuracy.

Listing 1.56: Example: What is the difference between `float`, `double`, and `decimal` in C#? When would you use each

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        float f = 3.14f;      // Single-precision
        double d = 3.14159;   // Double-precision
        decimal m = 3.14159m; // High-precision, used for monetary calculations

        Console.WriteLine($"Float: {f}, Double: {d}, Decimal: {m}");
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `struct` and `class` in C#?

- **struct:** A value type stored on the stack, copied by value. Good for small data structures without inheritance.
- **class:** A reference type stored on the heap, passed by reference. Good for complex data structures requiring inheritance.

Listing 1.57: Example: What is the difference between `struct` and `class` in C#

```
struct PointStruct
{
    public int X, Y;
```

```
}

class PointClass
{
    public int X, Y;
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        PointStruct pStruct = new PointStruct { X = 10, Y = 20 };
        PointClass pClass = new PointClass { X = 10, Y = 20 };

        PointStruct pStructCopy = pStruct; // Value type copy
        PointClass pClassCopy = pClass; // Reference type copy (both point to the same object)

        pStructCopy.X = 100;
        pClassCopy.X = 100;

        Console.WriteLine($"Struct original: {pStruct.X}, copy: {pStructCopy.X}"); // Outputs: 10, 100
        Console.WriteLine($"Class original: {pClass.X}, copy: {pClassCopy.X}"); // Outputs: 100, 100
    }
}
```

What is the difference between a reference type and a value type in C#?

- **Value types:** Store data directly on the stack, copied by value.
- **Reference types:** Store references on the heap, share the same memory address when assigned.

Listing 1.58: Example: What is the difference between a reference type and a value type in C#

```
struct ValueType
{
    public int Data;
}

class ReferenceType
{
    public int Data;
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        ValueType value1 = new ValueType { Data = 10 };
        ValueType value2 = value1; // Copy of the value
        value2.Data = 20;

        ReferenceType ref1 = new ReferenceType { Data = 10 };
        ReferenceType ref2 = ref1; // Reference to the same object
        ref2.Data = 20;

        Console.WriteLine($"Value Type: {value1.Data}"); // Outputs: 10
```

```
        Console.WriteLine($"Reference Type: {ref1.Data}"); // Outputs: 20
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `dynamic` and `var` in C#?

- **var:** Type determined at compile time, once inferred, it cannot change.
- **dynamic:** Type resolved at runtime, offering flexibility but losing compile-time checks.

Listing 1.59: Example: What is the difference between `dynamic` and `var` in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var a = 10; // Type inferred as int at compile time
        // a = "string"; // Compile-time error

        dynamic b = 10; // Type determined at runtime
        b = "string"; // No error, but potential runtime issues
        Console.WriteLine(b);
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `object` and `dynamic` in C#?

- **object:** Base type for all types in C#, requires casting for operations.
- **dynamic:** Bypasses compile-time type checking; operations are resolved at runtime.

Listing 1.60: Example: What is the difference between `object` and `dynamic` in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        object obj = 10;
        // Console.WriteLine(obj + 5); // Compile-time error, requires casting

        dynamic dyn = 10;
        Console.WriteLine(dyn + 5); // No error, resolved at runtime
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `nullable` types and `non-nullable` types in C#?

- **Non-nullable:** Cannot hold `null` and must have a valid value.
- **Nullable (T?):** Can represent all values of the underlying type plus `null`.

Listing 1.61: Example: What is the difference between `nullable` types and `non-nullable` types in C#

```
class Program
```

```
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int nonNullable = 10;
        // nonNullable = null; // Compile-time error, cannot assign null to non-nullable

        int? nullable = null; // Nullable type can hold a null value
        nullable = 20; // Can also hold a valid integer value
        Console.WriteLine(nullable.HasValue ? nullable.Value.ToString() : "null");
    }
}
```

How does type casting work between different types in C#? What are implicit and explicit casts?

- **Implicit cast:** Happens automatically when no data loss occurs.
- **Explicit cast:** Must be specified with the cast operator, can cause data loss or fail at runtime.

Listing 1.62: Example: How does type casting work between different types in C#? What are implicit and explicit casts

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Implicit cast: int to double (no data loss)
        int a = 10;
        double b = a;
        Console.WriteLine(b); // Outputs: 10.0

        // Explicit cast: double to int (possible data loss)
        double c = 9.8;
        int d = (int)c; // Must explicitly cast
        Console.WriteLine(d); // Outputs: 9
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `is` and `as` operators in C#?

- **is:** Checks if an object is compatible with a given type and returns a boolean.
- **as:** Attempts to cast an object to a type, returning `null` if the cast fails instead of throwing.

Listing 1.63: Example: What is the difference between `is` and `as` operators in C#

```
class Animal { }
class Dog : Animal { }

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        Animal animal = new Dog();

        if (animal is Dog)
```

```
        {
            Console.WriteLine("Animal is a Dog.");
        }

        Dog dog = animal as Dog; // Safe cast, returns null if cast fails
        if (dog != null)
        {
            Console.WriteLine("Successfully cast to Dog.");
        }
    }
}
```

How does the `typeof` keyword differ from `GetType()` in C#?

- **typeof:** Retrieves a type at compile time using a type name.
- `GetType():` Retrieves the runtime type of an object instance.

Listing 1.64: Example: How does the `typeof` keyword differ from `GetType()` in C#

```
class Animal { }

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Compile-time type
        Type type1 = typeof(Animal);
        Console.WriteLine(type1); // Outputs: Animal

        // Runtime type
        Animal animal = new Animal();
        Type type2 = animal.GetType();
        Console.WriteLine(type2); // Outputs: Animal
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `enum` and `constant` in C#?

- **enum:** A distinct type representing a set of named constants.
- **const:** A single constant value, must be known at compile time and cannot change.

Listing 1.65: Example: What is the difference between `enum` and `constant` in C#

```
enum Days { Sunday, Monday, Tuesday }

class Program
{
    const int MaxValue = 100; // A constant

    static void Main()
    {
        Days day = Days.Monday; // Using an enum
        Console.WriteLine($"Day: {day}, MaxValue: {MaxValue}");
    }
}
```

What is a `delegate` in C#, and how does it differ from a `Func` or `Action` type?

A `delegate` is a type representing references to methods with a particular signature. `Func` and `Action` are predefined delegates where `Func` returns a value and `Action` does not.

Listing 1.66: Example: What is a `delegate` in C#, and how does it differ from a `Func` or `Action` type

```
// Custom delegate
public delegate int MathOperation(int x, int y);

class Program
{
    static int Add(int x, int y) => x + y;

    static void Main()
    {
        MathOperation operation = Add;
        Console.WriteLine(operation(5, 10)); // Outputs 15

        Func<int, int, int> funcOperation = Add;
        Console.WriteLine(funcOperation(5, 10)); // Outputs 15
    }
}
```

What are type parameters in C#, and how do they work with generics?

Type parameters are placeholders in generic classes or methods, allowing for type-safe code that works with any data type without duplication.

Listing 1.67: Example: What are type parameters in C#, and how do they work with generics

```
// Generic class
class GenericBox<T>
{
    public T Value { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        GenericBox<int> intBox = new GenericBox<int> { Value = 10 };
        GenericBox<string> strBox = new GenericBox<string> { Value = "Hello" };

        Console.WriteLine($"Int Box: {intBox.Value}, String Box: {strBox.Value}");
    }
}
```

How does method overloading work in C#, and how does it differ from method overriding?

- **Overloading:** Same method name, different parameter signatures within the same class.

- **Overriding:** A derived class changes the behavior of a base class method using `override`.

Listing 1.68: Example: How does method overloading work in C#, and how does it differ from method overriding

```
class BaseClass
{
    public virtual void Display() => Console.WriteLine("BaseClass Display");
}

class DerivedClass : BaseClass
{
    public override void Display() => Console.WriteLine("DerivedClass Display");

    // Overloaded method
    public void Display(string message) => Console.WriteLine(message);
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        DerivedClass derived = new DerivedClass();
        derived.Display(); // Calls overridden method
        derived.Display("Hello"); // Calls overloaded method
    }
}
```

How does the `default` keyword work in C#, and what is its purpose with generic types?

`default` returns the default value of a type. For value types, it's typically `0` or `false`, and for reference types, `null`. In generics, `default` ensures the code works for any type parameter.

Listing 1.69: Example: How does the `default` keyword work in C#, and what is its purpose with generic types

```
class Program
{
    static T GetDefaultValue<T>()
    {
        return default(T); // Returns default value based on the type
    }

    static void Main()
    {
        Console.WriteLine(GetDefaultValue<int>()); // Outputs 0
        Console.WriteLine(GetDefaultValue<string>()); // Outputs null
    }
}
```

What is the difference between implicit and explicit type conversion in C#?

- **Implicit:** Occurs automatically when safe.
- **Explicit:** Requires a cast operator because data loss or failure can happen.

Listing 1.70: Example: What is the difference between implicit and explicit type conversion in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int num = 100;
        double numDouble = num; // Implicit conversion

        double value = 9.8;
        int valueInt = (int)value; // Explicit conversion

        Console.WriteLine($"Implicit: {numDouble}, Explicit: {valueInt}");
    }
}
```

How does the `nullable` feature work in C# with value types?

Nullable value types (`T?`) can represent all values of the underlying type plus `null`. Useful when a value may or may not exist.

Listing 1.71: Example: How does the `nullable` feature work in C# with value types

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        int? nullableInt = null; // Nullable integer
        if (nullableInt.HasValue)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(nullableInt.Value);
        }
        else
        {
            Console.WriteLine("Value is null");
        }
    }
}
```

How does `ref` and `out` differ when passing parameters in C#?

- **ref:** Passes a parameter by reference; must be initialized before passing.
- **out:** Also by reference, but the parameter needn't be initialized beforehand. Must be assigned inside the method.

Listing 1.72: Example: How does `ref` and `out` differ when passing parameters in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void ModifyRef(ref int a) => a = 20;
    static void ModifyOut(out int a) => a = 30;

    static void Main()
    {
```

```
        int refValue = 10;
        ModifyRef(ref refValue);
        Console.WriteLine(refValue); // Outputs: 20

        int outValue;
        ModifyOut(out outValue);
        Console.WriteLine(outValue); // Outputs: 30
    }
}
```

1.5 Collections and LINQ

What is the difference between `IEnumerable`, `ICollection`, and `IList` in C#?

- **IEnumerable:** Forward-only iteration, minimal methods.
- **ICollection:** Inherits `IEnumerable`, adds `Add`/`Remove`/`Count`.
- **IList:** Inherits `ICollection`, provides index-based access.

Listing 1.73: Example: What is the difference between `IEnumerable`, `ICollection`, and `IList` in C#

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // IEnumerable: Only allows iteration
        IEnumerable<int> enumerable = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };
        foreach (var item in enumerable)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(item);
        }

        // ICollection: Allows adding/removing
        ICollection<int> collection = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };
        collection.Add(4);
        collection.Remove(2);

        // IList: Allows index-based access
        IList<int> list = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };
        list[1] = 10;
        list.Insert(2, 5);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", list)); // Outputs: 1, 10, 5, 3
    }
}
```

How does deferred execution work in LINQ, and why is it useful?

LINQ queries aren't executed until the data is actually requested. This defers expensive operations and allows combining multiple queries before execution.

Listing 1.74: Example: How does deferred execution work in LINQ, and why is it useful

```
class Program
```

```
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };

        // Deferred execution: query is not executed until we enumerate over it
        var query = numbers.Where(n => n > 2);

        numbers.Add(6); // Adding to the list before enumeration

        // Now the query is executed
        foreach (var number in query)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(number); // Outputs: 3, 4, 5, 6
        }
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `First`, `FirstOrDefault`, `Single`, and `SingleOrDefault` in LINQ? When should each be used?

- **First:** Returns the first element, throws if empty.
- **FirstOrDefault:** Returns the first element or a default if empty.
- **Single:** Returns exactly one element, throws if none or more than one.
- **SingleOrDefault:** Returns exactly one element or default if empty, throws if more than one.

Listing 1.75: Example: What is the difference between `First`, `FirstOrDefault`, `Single`, and `SingleOrDefault` in LINQ? When should each be used

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };

        // First: throws if empty, returns first element
        int first = numbers.First();

        // FirstOrDefault: returns default if empty
        int firstOrDefault = numbers.FirstOrDefault();

        // Single: expects only one element, throws if more than one
        int single = numbers.Where(n => n == 2).Single();

        // SingleOrDefault: returns single element or default, throws if more than one
        int singleOrDefault = numbers.Where(n => n == 2).SingleOrDefault();
    }
}
```

How does the `SelectMany` method differ from `Select` in LINQ?

`Select` projects each element into a new form, while `SelectMany` flattens sequences of sequences into a single sequence.

Listing 1.76: Example: How does the `SelectMany` method differ from `Select` in LINQ

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        // Using Select: Returns an IEnumerable of IEnumerable
        List<List<int>> numbers = new List<List<int>>
        {
            new List<int> { 1, 2 },
            new List<int> { 3, 4 }
        };
        var selectResult = numbers.Select(list => list);

        // Using SelectMany: Flattens the lists into a single sequence
        var selectManyResult = numbers.SelectMany(list => list);

        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", selectManyResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 4
    }
}
```

How does LINQ handle filtering with `Where`, and how does it work with complex objects?

`Where` filters a sequence based on a predicate. It applies to any object type by specifying the condition in a lambda expression.

Listing 1.77: Example: How does LINQ handle filtering with `Where`, and how does it work with complex objects

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public int Age { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<Person> people = new List<Person>
        {
            new Person { Name = "Alice", Age = 30 },
            new Person { Name = "Bob", Age = 40 },
            new Person { Name = "Charlie", Age = 25 }
        };

        // Filtering using Where on complex objects
        var adults = people.Where(p => p.Age >= 30);

        foreach (var person in adults)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(person.Name); // Outputs: Alice, Bob
        }
```

```
    }
}
```

What is the purpose of `GroupBy` in LINQ, and how does it work?

`GroupBy` groups elements by a key selector and returns an `IEnumerable` of `IGrouping<TKey, TElement>`, where each grouping has a key and its related items.

Listing 1.78: Example: What is the purpose of `GroupBy` in LINQ, and how does it work

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public string Department { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<Person> people = new List<Person>
        {
            new Person { Name = "Alice", Department = "HR" },
            new Person { Name = "Bob", Department = "IT" },
            new Person { Name = "Charlie", Department = "IT" }
        };

        // Group by department
        var groupedByDepartment = people.GroupBy(p => p.Department);

        foreach (var group in groupedByDepartment)
        {
            Console.WriteLine($"Department: {group.Key}");
            foreach (var person in group)
            {
                Console.WriteLine($" - {person.Name}");
            }
        }
    }
}
```

How does `ToDictionary` work in LINQ, and what are some potential pitfalls?

`ToDictionary` converts a sequence into a `Dictionary<TKey,TValue>` using key/value selectors. A pitfall is duplicate keys, which cause an exception.

Listing 1.79: Example: How does `ToDictionary` work in LINQ, and what are some potential pitfalls

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public int Id { get; set; }
}

```

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<Person> people = new List<Person>
        {
            new Person { Name = "Alice", Id = 1 },
            new Person { Name = "Bob", Id = 2 }
        };

        // Converting to a Dictionary where key is Id and value is Name
        Dictionary<int, string> peopleDict = people.ToDictionary(p => p.Id, p => p.Name);

        // Accessing the dictionary
        Console.WriteLine(peopleDict[1]); // Outputs: Alice
    }
}
```

How do LINQ `Join` and `GroupJoin` differ, and when should each be used?

- **Join:** Combines two sequences based on matching keys, similar to an inner join.
- **GroupJoin:** Groups the matching elements from the second sequence, akin to a left join.

Listing 1.80: Example: How do LINQ `Join` and `GroupJoin` differ, and when should each be used

```
class Employee
{
    public int Id { get; set; }
    public string Name { get; set; }
}

class Department
{
    public int DepartmentId { get; set; }
    public string DepartmentName { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<Employee> employees = new List<Employee>
        {
            new Employee { Id = 1, Name = "Alice" },
            new Employee { Id = 2, Name = "Bob" }
        };

        List<Department> departments = new List<Department>
        {
            new Department { DepartmentId = 1, DepartmentName = "HR" },
            new Department { DepartmentId = 2, DepartmentName = "IT" }
        };

        // Join example
        var joinResult = employees.Join(departments,
                                        e => e.Id,
                                        d => d.DepartmentId,
```

```
                                        (e, d) => new { e.Name, d.DepartmentName });

        // GroupJoin example (left outer join)
        var groupJoinResult = departments.GroupJoin(employees,
                                                    d => d.DepartmentId,
                                                    e => e.Id,
                                                    (d, es) => new { d.DepartmentName, Employees = es
                                                        });
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `OrderBy` and `ThenBy` in LINQ?

- **OrderBy:** Sorts items in ascending order by a key.
- **ThenBy:** Specifies a secondary sort for items that matched the primary sort.

Listing 1.81: Example: What is the difference between `OrderBy` and `ThenBy` in LINQ

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public int Age { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<Person> people = new List<Person>
        {
            new Person { Name = "Alice", Age = 30 },
            new Person { Name = "Bob", Age = 25 },
            new Person { Name = "Charlie", Age = 30 }
        };

        // Sort by Age, then by Name for people with the same Age
        var sortedPeople = people.OrderBy(p => p.Age).ThenBy(p => p.Name);

        foreach (var person in sortedPeople)
        {
            Console.WriteLine($"{person.Name}, {person.Age}");
        }
    }
}
```

What is the purpose of `Distinct` in LINQ, and how does it determine uniqueness?

`Distinct` removes duplicate elements from a sequence by using the default or custom equality comparer.

Listing 1.82: Example: What is the purpose of `Distinct` in LINQ, and how does it determine uniqueness

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5 };

        // Using Distinct to eliminate duplicates
        var distinctNumbers = numbers.Distinct();

        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", distinctNumbers)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
    }
}
```

How does `Zip` work in LINQ, and when would you use it?

`Zip` pairs up elements from two sequences by index, stopping when the shorter sequence ends, and applies a function to each pair.

Listing 1.83: Example: How does `Zip` work in LINQ, and when would you use it

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };
        var letters = new List<char> { 'A', 'B', 'C' };

        // Zipping numbers with letters
        var zipped = numbers.Zip(letters, (n, l) => $"{n}-{l}");

        foreach (var item in zipped)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(item); // Outputs: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C
        }
    }
}
```

How can `Any` and `All` be used for validation in LINQ?

- **Any:** Checks if at least one element satisfies a condition or if the sequence has elements.
- **All:** Checks if all elements satisfy a condition.

Listing 1.84: Example: How can `Any` and `All` be used for validation in LINQ

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };

        // Check if any number is greater than 4
        bool anyGreaterThanFour = numbers.Any(n => n > 4); // True

        // Check if all numbers are positive
```

```
        bool allPositive = numbers.All(n => n > 0); // True

        Console.WriteLine(anyGreaterThanFour); // Outputs: True
        Console.WriteLine(allPositive); // Outputs: True
    }
}
```

What is `Aggregate` in LINQ, and how does it differ from `Sum`, `Count`, etc.?

`Aggregate` applies a custom accumulator function over a sequence, whereas methods like `Sum` or `Count` are specific built-in aggregations.

Listing 1.85: Example: What is `Aggregate` in LINQ, and how does it differ from `Sum`, `Count`, etc.

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4 };

        // Using Aggregate to compute product of all numbers
        int product = numbers.Aggregate((acc, n) => acc * n);

        Console.WriteLine(product); // Outputs: 24 (1 * 2 * 3 * 4)
    }
}
```

How does `Except` differ from `Intersect` in LINQ?

- **Except:** Returns elements in the first sequence not in the second.
- **Intersect:** Returns elements present in both sequences.

Listing 1.86: Example: How does `Except` differ from `Intersect` in LINQ

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        List<int> list1 = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
        List<int> list2 = new List<int> { 3, 4, 5, 6 };

        // Elements in list1 but not in list2
        var exceptResult = list1.Except(list2);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", exceptResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2

        // Elements common to both lists
        var intersectResult = list1.Intersect(list2);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", intersectResult)); // Outputs: 3, 4
    }
}
```

How does `Select` with index work in LINQ, and why would you use it?

`Select` can include the zero-based index in the projection. Useful for transformations that need both the item and its index.

Listing 1.87: Example: How does `Select` with index work in LINQ, and why would you use it

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var fruits = new List<string> { "Apple", "Banana", "Cherry" };

        // Using Select with index
        var indexedFruits = fruits.Select((fruit, index) => $"{index}: {fruit}");

        foreach (var item in indexedFruits)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(item); // Outputs: 0: Apple, 1: Banana, 2: Cherry
        }
    }
}
```

How can you use `Concat` and `Union` in LINQ, and what is the difference?

- **Concat:** Merges two sequences end to end, keeping duplicates.
- **Union:** Merges two sequences and removes duplicates.

Listing 1.88: Example: How can you use `Concat` and `Union` in LINQ, and what is the difference

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var list1 = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3 };
        var list2 = new List<int> { 3, 4, 5 };

        // Concatenating two lists
        var concatResult = list1.Concat(list2);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", concatResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5

        // Union of two lists (removes duplicates)
        var unionResult = list1.Union(list2);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", unionResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
    }
}
```

What is the difference between `Take` and `Skip` in LINQ, and when would you use them?

- **Take:** Returns a specified number of elements from the start of a sequence.
- **Skip:** Ignores a specified number of elements, returning the rest.

Listing 1.89: Example: What is the difference between `Take` and `Skip` in LINQ, and when would you use them

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 };

        // Take the first 3 elements
        var taken = numbers.Take(3);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", taken)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3

        // Skip the first 3 elements and return the rest
        var skipped = numbers.Skip(3);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", skipped)); // Outputs: 4, 5, 6
    }
}
```

How does the `ToLookup` method differ from `GroupBy` in LINQ?

`ToLookup` returns an immutable `Lookup<TKey,TElement>` that you can query quickly, while `GroupBy` returns an `IEnumerable<IGrouping<TKey,TElement»`. Semantically similar, but `Lookup` is more like a dictionary of lists.

Listing 1.90: Example: How does the `ToLookup` method differ from `GroupBy` in LINQ

```
class Person
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public string Department { get; set; }
}

class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var people = new List<Person>
        {
            new Person { Name = "Alice", Department = "HR" },
            new Person { Name = "Bob", Department = "IT" },
            new Person { Name = "Charlie", Department = "HR" }
        };

        // Using GroupBy
        var grouped = people.GroupBy(p => p.Department);
        foreach (var group in grouped)
        {
            Console.WriteLine($"{group.Key}: {string.Join(", ", group.Select(p => p.Name))}");
        }

        // Using ToLookup
        var lookup = people.ToLookup(p => p.Department);
        foreach (var person in lookup["HR"]) // Quick lookup by key
        {
            Console.WriteLine(person.Name); // Outputs: Alice, Charlie
        }
    }
```

```
}
```

How does `Except` differ from `Distinct` in LINQ, and when would you use each?

- **Except:** Computes set difference between two sequences.
- **Distinct:** Removes duplicates within a single sequence.

Listing 1.91: Example: How does `Except` differ from `Distinct` in LINQ, and when would you use each

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var list1 = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
        var list2 = new List<int> { 3, 4, 5 };

        // Using Except: Elements in list1 but not in list2
        var exceptResult = list1.Except(list2);
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", exceptResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2

        // Using Distinct: Removes duplicates in a single list
        var listWithDuplicates = new List<int> { 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4 };
        var distinctResult = listWithDuplicates.Distinct();
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", distinctResult)); // Outputs: 1, 2, 3, 4
    }
}
```

How does `Reverse` work in LINQ, and what are some practical use cases?

`Reverse` inverts the order of a sequence. Useful for reversing sort orders or processing items backward.

Listing 1.92: Example: How does `Reverse` work in LINQ, and what are some practical use cases

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var numbers = new List<int> { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };

        // Reverse the sequence
        var reversedNumbers = numbers.Reverse();
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", reversedNumbers)); // Outputs: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
    }
}
```

What is the purpose of the `OfType` method in LINQ, and how does it differ from `Cast`?

- **OfType:** Filters elements that can be cast to the specified type, excluding invalid ones.

- **Cast:** Attempts to cast all elements, throwing if any cannot be cast.

Listing 1.93: Example: What is the purpose of the `OfType` method in LINQ, and how does it differ from `Cast`

```
class Program
{
    static void Main()
    {
        var mixedList = new List<object> { 1, "string", 3, "another string" };

        // OfType: Filters by type and ignores non-matching elements
        var intResults = mixedList.OfType<int>();
        Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", intResults)); // Outputs: 1, 3

        // Cast: Attempts to cast every element, throws exception if type mismatch occurs
        try
        {
            var castResults = mixedList.Cast<int>();
            Console.WriteLine(string.Join(", ", castResults)); // Throws InvalidCastException
        }
        catch (InvalidCastException ex)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(ex.Message); // Outputs: Unable to cast object of type 'System.String' to
                type 'System.Int32'.
        }
    }
}
```