**Message**

Message defines a particular communication between Lifelines of an Interaction. A communication can be, for example, raising a Signal, invoking an Operation, creating or destroying an Instance. Messages specify the kind of communication, the sender, and the receiver.

A Message is represented by arrows between the lifelines. The style of the Message line and arrowhead reflect the types of the Message.

You can see the description of a selected property in the description area of the Specification window. To see descriptions, be sure the Show Description option is selected.

**Message sorts**

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<th>Message Sort</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>synchCall</td>
<td>The Message was generated by a synchronous call to an Operation. Synchronous Messages can overtake each other. When a Message represents an Operation, the arguments of the Message must correspond to the parameters of the Operation.</td>
<td><img src="%7B#%7D" alt="Example of a synchCall message" /></td>
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- Assigning Signals to Messages
- Creating Signal receptions for Messages
- Messages in Sequence and Time Diagrams
- Messages in Communication diagrams
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<th>asynchCall</th>
<th>Asynchronous means that the caller continues immediately after the call. asynchCall Messages do not have reply Messages.</th>
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<tr>
<td>asynchSign</td>
<td>The Message was generated by an asynchronous send Action. The argument of the Message must correspond to the attributes of the Signal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reply</td>
<td>A reply Message to an Operation call.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>createMess</td>
<td>The Message designates the creation of another Lifeline object. No other Messages on a given Lifeline in an Interaction operand may appear above a Lifeline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deleteMess</td>
<td>The Message designates the termination of another Lifeline.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Message syntax

Message name is displayed on the message path on the diagram pane. The syntax of the message name is as follows:

```
<messageident> ::= [<attribute> '=?'] <signal or operation name> ['[' ['<argument> [',']<argument>']'] ']
```

- `<argument>` ::= [('<parameter name> '=?')<argument-value>]'
- `<argument>` ::= [('<parameter name> '=?')<argument-value>]'

**Example**

```
v=lo(P1="a", P2=True):12
```
Common actions with Messages

To set an action type for a Message, do one of the following

- In the Message Specification window, click the Message Sort property value cell and select the action type from the drop-down list.
- On the diagram pane, right-click the Message and select a desired action type from the shortcut menu.

To show / hide Message numbers

1. Right-click the diagram pane to open its shortcut menu.
2. Then do one of the following:
   - In a Sequence or Time diagram, select / clear Show Message Numbers.
   - In a Communication diagram, select / clear Numbering > Show Message Numbers.