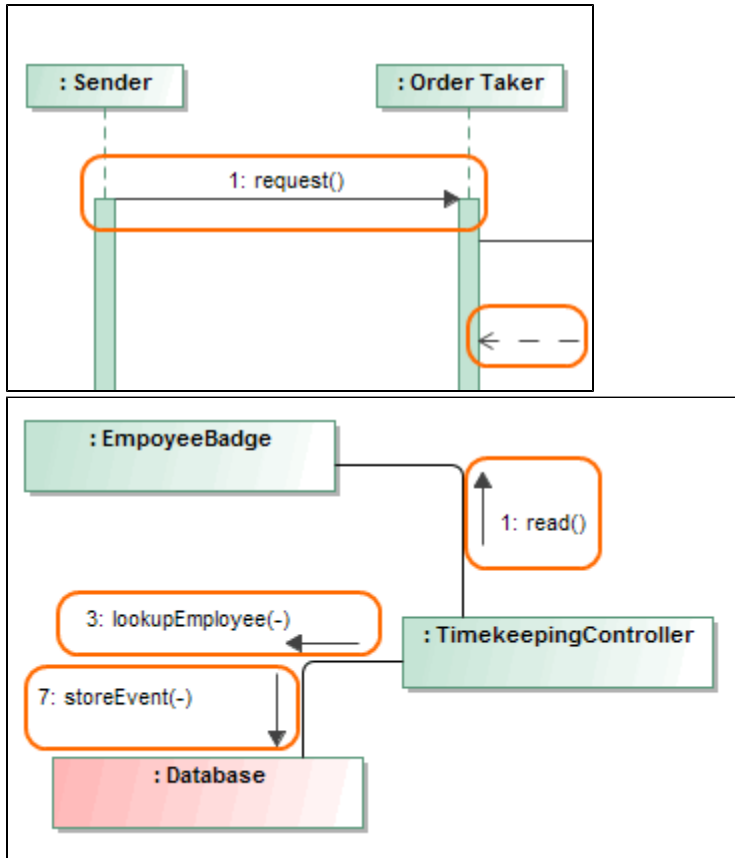


Message

A Message defines a particular communication between [Lifelines](#) of an [Interaction](#), such as raising a Signal, invoking an [Operation](#), or 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

| Message Sort | Description | Example |
|--------------|---|---------|
| synchCall | 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. | |
| asynchCall | Asynchronous means that the caller continues immediately after the call. asynchCall Messages do not have reply Messages. | |
| asynchSignal | The Message was generated by an asynchronous send Action. The argument of the Message must correspond to the attributes of the Signal. | |

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| reply | A reply Message to an Operation call. | |
| createMessage | 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. | |
| deleteMessage | The Message designates the termination of another Lifeline. | |

Message syntax

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

`<messageid> ::= [<attribute> '='] <signal or operation name> ['(' [<argument> ','`

`<argument>]* ')'] ['<return value>]`

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



Example

`Go(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**.

Related pages

- [Assigning Operations to Messages](#)
- [Message name parsing](#)
- [Assigning Signals to Messages](#)
- [Creating Signal receptions for Messages](#)
- [Messages in Sequence and Time Diagrams](#)
- [Messages in Communication diagrams](#)

- [Model Elements](#)
- [Specification Window](#)
- [Lifelines](#)
- [Interaction](#)
- [Operation](#)