

Queues

First in, first out

Much like `List` and `Dictionary`, `Queue` is named for its ability to append data to the end of a list and remove data from the beginning.

You can think of this as a queue of people waiting to be served by a teller.

Another term for this kind of data structure is "first-in, first-out."

Not random access

Unlike a `List` or `Dictionary`, a `Queue` does not allow random access to its elements. That is we cannot use `[]` to access any element we want.

We may only use `Enqueue` and `Dequeue` to add and remove data from the queue.

Enqueue

To add elements to the end of a queue, we use the Enqueue method. Much like Add appends things to a List, Enqueue adds things to a Queue. However, we can *only* add to the end of the queue.

```
var students = new Queue<string>();  
students.Enqueue("Mary");  
students.Enqueue("Bill");  
students.Enqueue("Paul");  
students.Enqueue("Sandra");  
students.Enqueue("Thomas");
```

Looping through a queue

Much like our `List` and `Dictionary` we can use the `foreach` method to loop through the elements of a queue.

```
foreach (var student in students)
{
    Console.WriteLine($"Hello {student}");
}
```

Cannot use '[]'

If we try to access a Queue element using [], we will get an error.

```
// This code will not work, it won't even compile.  
var student = students[0];
```

Removing an element

We can use Dequeue to remove an element from the beginning of a queue. We can only remove the first element in a queue.

```
var student = students.Dequeue();  
Console.WriteLine($"Goodbye {student}");  
Console.WriteLine($"There are now {student.Count} students in the queue.");
```

This will print Goodbye Mary and There are now 4 students in the queue.

Peeking in on a queue

We can also see what element is at the beginning of a queue using the Peek method. While Dequeue removes an element from the queue, Peek will not.

```
var student = students.Peek();  
Console.WriteLine($"You are up next {student}");
```

This will print You are up next Bill and There are now 4 students in the queue. since we didn't remove Bill.

Does a queue contain a specific element?

We can also use `Contains` to check if a queue contains a specific element.

```
var isThomasThere = students.Contains("Thomas");  
Console.WriteLine($"Thomas is there? {isThomasThere}");
```

Clear out a queue

```
students.Clear();  
Console.WriteLine($"There are now {students.Count} students in the queue.");
```

This will print There are now 0 students in the queue.