

NIDE



Avoiding NPE

✓ Return empty list, not null

- No items? Return an empty list.

// Good

```
return Collections.emptyList(); // not null
```

-  Never return null for collections.

Why this matters

- Fewer surprise NPEs
- Easier loops & streams
- Clear intent: “no items”



Check early. Fail loud.

```
Objects.requireNonNull(follower, "Follower must not be  
null");
```

```
sayHi(follower);
```

- State the rule once. Crash fast on bad input.

- Only call when present

```
Optional.ofNullable(follower)  
    .ifPresent(this::sayHi);
```

- Reads well. Avoids ambiguity.

😐 Classic way (ok, but noisy)

```
if (follower != null) {  
    sayHi(follower);  
}
```

- Works, but more boilerplate.

Quick rules

- Don't return nulls
- Validate at boundaries
- Pick one style, be consistent
- Make NPEs impossible by design

 Your turn!

- Replace null returns today
- Add precondition checks
- How do you handle NPEs? ;)

Comment there 