

# Calculate Function

## Description

Returns the result of evaluating a dictionary item.

## Syntax

*value* = **Calculate** (*expression*)

## Remarks

You can use the Calculate function in place of the {} (Braces) function. Calculate must be used if the column name is not known at compilation time. The expression specified in the Calculate function must evaluate to a column name in the file that has been opened to the system variable @DICT.

## See also

[{} \(the Braces operator\)](#)

## Example

The following example shows how to evaluate column values by reference to the dictionary column name.

```
/* The following code fragment opens the SAMPLE_PRODUCTS table then the dictionary for that table,
then reads the desired row, using @ID, then calculates the desired column value,
using the dictionary column name. It returns the price of the specified item. */
table = "SAMPLE_PRODUCTS"
key = "TCHBUL"      /* the technical bulletins product
Value = ""          /* initialize the return variable
@ID = key
Open table To tablevar Then
  Open "DICT. ":table To @DICT Then
    Read @RECORD From tablevar, @ID Then
      dict_field = "INV_AMT"
      * The following three code segments are equivalent:
      Value = {INV_AMT}
      Value = Calculate("INV_AMT")
      Value = Calculate(dict_field)
    End Else
      status = Set_FSError()
    End /* Read
  End Else
    status = Set_FSError()
  End /* Open dictionary
End Else
  status = Set_FSError()
End /* Open table
/* Notice that in each case, the dictionary item INV_AMT is calculated. */
```