

Using the Brackets Operator for Insertion

Description

Replaces a substring in variable with a specified string.

Syntax

variable [*start*, *length*] = *expression*

Parameters

The brackets operator has the following parameters when used for insertion. Use *start* and *length* to define the substring.

Parameter	Description
<i>Start</i>	A positive or negative integer. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If <i>start</i> is a positive number, the operation will begin at the character in the <i>start</i> position, counting right from the first character or space at the beginning of the string.• If <i>start</i> is a negative number, the operation will begin at the character in that position, counting left from the last character or space at the end of the string.• If <i>start</i> is 0 (zero) or 1, the operation will begin with the first character or space at the beginning of the string.
<i>Length</i>	Number of characters to replace, beginning from start. Each space and character within the string is counted as a character position. Also, note that the value specified for <i>length</i> includes the character position specified by <i>start</i> . Note: Length can be negative, signifying reverse order.
<i>expression</i>	Replaces the substring in <i>variable</i> that has been defined by the parameters <i>start</i> and <i>length</i> . If <i>expression</i> yields a string that is longer than the specified substring, the total string length of variable will increase. If <i>expression</i> yields a shorter string, then the total string length of <i>variable</i> decreases. In other words, the entire substring defined by start and length is replaced by whatever is the value of expression.

Example

The following example The following example shows how to use the brackets operator for insertion.

```
* When LENGTH = 0. This yields "ABXXYYCDEF"
string = "ABCDEF"
string[-4,0] = "XXYY"

/* When LENGTH = negative number, the reverse order: yields "A123EF" */
string = "ABCDEF"
string[4,-3] = "123"
```