

# 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>	<p>A positive or negative integer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
<i>Length</i>	<p>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>.</p> <p><b>Note: Length can be negative, signifying reverse order.</b></p>
<i>expression</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>In other words, the entire substring defined by start and length is replaced by whatever is the value of expression.</p>

## 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"
```