

# Fmt Function

## Description

Formats data in a specified pattern. The pattern can include field width, background fill characters, line justification, conversion specifications, and masking.

## Syntax

*output* = **Fmt** (*string*, *format*)

## Parameters

The Fmt function has the following parameters.

Parameter	Description																		
<i>String</i>	Any character string to format on output.																		
<i>Format</i>	<p>An argument for format might be structured as follows.</p> <p><i>justification</i>[(<i>fill_char</i>)]<i>mask</i></p> <p><i>justification</i>[(<i>fill_char</i>)]#[<i>field_size</i>]</p> <p><i>conversion</i></p> <p><b>Note: The # character is essential, if you are going to specify field size.</b></p> <p><i>Justification</i> All formats must specify one of the following justifications.</p> <table><tr><th>Code</th><th>Result</th></tr><tr><td><i>L</i></td><td>Left justification.</td></tr><tr><td><i>R</i></td><td>Right justification.</td></tr><tr><td><i>C</i></td><td>Center justification.</td></tr><tr><td><i>T</i></td><td>Text justification: left justify and insert text marks (ASCII character 251) as line delimiters.</td></tr><tr><td><i>field_size</i></td><td>An optional parameter. Specifies the size of the field in which the value is to be justified. It must yield a positive integer. If the output data has a length larger than field_size, it will be truncated, unless T is chosen for justification.</td></tr><tr><td><i>Mask</i></td><td>The template of the desired output. For example, ###-##-### would be the template or mask that could be used for a variable that will be output as a Social Security number. The "#" characters are replaced with the characters from the variable, while the "-" characters are placed into the output according to the mask pattern.</td></tr><tr><td><i>fill_char</i></td><td>Contains a single character, enclosed by parentheses, that replaces the leading or trailing blank spaces. The default fill character is a space.</td></tr><tr><td><i>Conversion</i></td><td>Standard output conversions can be specified. (Refer to the OConv function.)</td></tr></table>	Code	Result	<i>L</i>	Left justification.	<i>R</i>	Right justification.	<i>C</i>	Center justification.	<i>T</i>	Text justification: left justify and insert text marks (ASCII character 251) as line delimiters.	<i>field_size</i>	An optional parameter. Specifies the size of the field in which the value is to be justified. It must yield a positive integer. If the output data has a length larger than field_size, it will be truncated, unless T is chosen for justification.	<i>Mask</i>	The template of the desired output. For example, ###-##-### would be the template or mask that could be used for a variable that will be output as a Social Security number. The "#" characters are replaced with the characters from the variable, while the "-" characters are placed into the output according to the mask pattern.	<i>fill_char</i>	Contains a single character, enclosed by parentheses, that replaces the leading or trailing blank spaces. The default fill character is a space.	<i>Conversion</i>	Standard output conversions can be specified. (Refer to the OConv function.)
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FMT is identical to [OConv\(\)](#).

## Example

The following examples show how to use Fmt for format report output.

Example Output

```
Fmt ("12345", "L#6")
"12345  "
Fmt ("12345", "R(*)#8")
"***12345"
Fmt ("ABCDEFG", "R#4")
"DEFG"
Fmt ('ABCD', 'C#6')
" ABCD  "
Fmt (6666, "D2-")
"04-01-86"
Fmt ("1234567890", "L(###)###-####")
"(123)456-7890"
```