

# Open Statement

## Description

Creates a table access variable (a file handle).

## Syntax

**Open** ["DICT",] *expression* To *table\_var* Then | Else *statements*

## Parameters

The Open statement has the following parameters.

Parameter	Description
<i>expression</i>	Designates the native table that is to be opened. To open the dictionary, use DICT as the first part of the table name (example: "DICT.CUSTOMERS"); and to open the data portion of the table, use only the table name (example: "CUSTOMERS"). Use separate Open statements to open the DICT and data portions of each table.
<i>table_var</i>	After a successful Open operation, <i>table_var</i> contains information about the table. From that point on, refer to the table with <i>table_var</i> , not with the actual table name.
<i>Then</i>	The statement(s) following Then are executed if a table is opened successfully.
<i>Else</i>	The statement(s) following Else are executed if the table cannot be opened. The <a href="#">Status() function</a> indicates the severity of the error, and the system variable @FILE_ERROR contains detail about the nature of the error.

You must Open a table before attempting to [Read](#) or [Write](#) rows from/to that table. As long as a table has been opened once, it does not need to be opened again each time you want to Read or Write to it.

Each table must be opened with a separate Open statement. Any number of tables may be opened at any point in the program.

Tables opened with the Open command need not and cannot be closed.

## See also

[Index.Open subroutine](#), [Attach\\_Table](#)

## Example

```
/* The following program demonstrates file opening and subsequent processing. */

table = "CAR_PARTS"

Open table To tablevar Then
  Open "DICT", table To @DICT Else null
End Else
  * error processing:  cannot open table
End
Select tablevar
Done = 0
Printer On
Loop
  ReadNext @ID Else done = 1
Until done
  Read @RECORD From tablevar, @ID Then
    report = {PART_NAME}:" ":"{PART_TYPE}:" ":"{PART_NO}
    Print report
  End
Repeat
Printer Off
```