

Format

TAB(numeric-expression)

Cross Reference

DISPLAY,PRINT

Description

The TAB function specifies the starting position of the next item to be printed by a PRINT or DISPLAY instruction.

The numeric-expression specifies the starting position of the next print item in a print-list of a PRINT or DISPLAY instruction.

If the value of the numeric-expression is not an integer, it is rounded to the nearest integer. If the value of the numeric-expression is less than 1, it is replaced by 1.

If the value of the numeric-expression is greater than the record length of the screen or device, it repeatedly reduced by the record length until it is less than or equal to the record length. The record length of the screen is the width of the screen window defined by the margins. For more information about the record length of a particular device, refer to the owner's manual that comes with that device.

Because the TAB function itself is treated as a separate print item, it must be preceded and /or followed by a print separator (usually a semicolon), unless it is the only item in the print-list.

If the number of characters already printed in the current record is greater than or equal to the position indicated by the value of the numeric-expression, the print item following the TAB is printed in the next record, beginning in the position specified by the value of the numeric-expression.

TAB can be used to print to a device or file only if the device or file has been opened in DISPLAY format.

TAB cannot be used with PRINT USING or DISPLAY USING.

Examples

```
100 PRINT TAB(12);35
```

Prints the number 35 at the twelfth position from left margin.

```
100 PRINT 356;TAB(18);"NAME"
```

Prints 356 at the beginning of the line and NAME at the eighteenth position from the left margin.

```
100 PRINT "ABCDEFGHJKLMN";TAB(5);"NOP"
```

Prints ABCDEFGHIJKLMN at the beginning of the line and NOP at the fifth position of the next line.