

## Chapter 1 : The Wiley COBOL syntax reference guide : with IBM and VAX enhancements (Book, ) [calendri

*The Wiley COBOL Syntax Reference Guide: With IBM and VAX Enhancements [Nancy Stern, Robert A. Stern] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Teaches students to design programs that are easy to read, debug, modify and maintain, and write well-designed.*

COBOL 9x features that have already been approved for use in the new standard are explained in detail as well. Interactive and batch processing. We focus on batch processing through Chapter 4. From Chapter 6 on, every chapter includes interactive elements and at least one end-of-chapter Programming Assignment that requires interactive processing. Topics that specifically relate to interactive issues are highlighted with the use of an interactive icon. Some are one-semester courses and others have a two-semester sequence. We make the assumption that most programming courses in colleges and universities introduce students to the fundamentals of the language and then provide them with enough information to learn advanced concepts on their own. Thus, we have streamlined the text by omitting some topics that are only infrequently covered in many courses. For example, double- and triple-level arrays are introduced in a chapter on arrays, but are not emphasized here. Relative file processing is introduced along with indexed file processing in a single chapter. Because we realize that some instructors may wish to have additional coverage of more advanced topics, we provide supplements that can be downloaded from our Web site on the Internet. We believe that the result is a new text, which includes appropriate coverage of all topics without being overpowering in either depth or breadth. In this edition, we focus primarily on pseudocode. We introduce flowcharts and illustrate them in Chapter 5. After that, the planning tool we use predominantly is pseudocode. We believe that pseudocode is a more current planning tool, but for those who still prefer flowcharting, there is enough in this edition to help students plan programs with flowcharts. Our Web site is [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com). We also use the Web site to provide supplementary material that can be downloaded. References in the text that point to Web sites include a Net icon. For example, the two-digit year that is commonly used in many existing COBOL programs becomes problematic for the next century. Two-digit years have traditionally assumed a year in the 19s. How will we distinguish between 1999 and 2000? This issue, and others like it, are addressed in the text. Many students begin their programming careers as maintenance programmers. To date, little or no attention has been given in textbooks to the techniques used to modify and update existing legacy code. We include a Programming Assignment in each chapter that focuses on maintenance issues. Rather than use the traditional pictorial record layout for describing input and output disk files, we describe our records using a format that has become a standard for depicting database records. You will see these new record layouts throughout the text. Many texts add them as a final chapter. We believe intrinsic functions are important enough to be integrated into the text. We introduce them in Chapter 7, along with arithmetic verbs, and use them throughout the book. Debugging Tips have been enhanced. We continue to include an end-of-chapter series of Debugging Exercises that provide users with program code that needs corrections. We also highlight Debugging Tips in the text that help users avoid errors. The Debugging icon is used to point to these items. Illustrated programs, Practice Programs, and Programming Assignments have been redesigned to reflect changes to the COBOL standard and to more appropriately depict real-world problems. Each chapter begins with: A detailed chapter outline. Before beginning a chapter, you can get an overview of its contents by looking at this outline. In addition, after you have read the chapter, you can use the outline as a summary of the overall organization. A list of objectives. This list helps you see what the chapter is intended to teach even before you read it. The material is presented in a step-by-step manner with numerous examples and illustrations. Within each chapter there are self-tests, with solutions, that are designed to help you evaluate your own understanding of the material presented. We encourage you to take tests as you go along. They will help pinpoint and resolve any misunderstandings you may have. End-of-Chapter Material Each chapter ends with learning aids consisting of: This is a list of all new terms defined in the chapter. Appendix E is a glossary that lists all key terms in the text along with their definitions. Chapter Self-Test - with solutions so you can test yourself on your understanding of the chapter as a whole. A full program is illustrated. We recommend you read the definition of the problem and try to code

the program yourself. Then compare your solution to the one illustrated. These are general questions that may be assigned by your instructor for homework. These are program excerpts with errors in them. You are asked to correct the coding. The errors highlighted are those commonly made by students and entry-level programmers. The assignments appear in increasing order of difficulty. You will need to either create your own test data or receive a set from your instructor. Programming Assignments in each chapter include at least one interactive program designated with an icon and a maintenance program that students will need to modify or update. Appendix B includes sample test data that can be used for Programming Assignment 2 in each chapter. A syntax reference guide and a disk containing all programs illustrated in the book also accompany this text. The disk also contains data sets for all Programming Assignments. Alternatively, both the syntax reference guide and the disk can be downloaded from the Internet. One contains 1 solutions to all text questions, 2 full examinations, and 3 course outlines. The second contains solutions to all Programming Assignments from the text. This latter manual is packaged with a disk that contains 1 test data for all Programming Assignments and 2 additional Debugging Exercises. A student data disk containing all programs illustrated in the book, along with data, is also provided. Instructors are free to distribute these disks to their students. A computerized test bank and set of transparency masters are also available. An electronic multimedia slide presentation package, designed using PowerPoint, is available as a lecture enhancer or as a student study tool. To obtain these compilers outside of North America, please contact Micro Focus Publishing at [mfpubl@camicrofocus.com](mailto:mfpubl@camicrofocus.com). For online help, an email address [techhelp@camicrofocus.com](mailto:techhelp@camicrofocus.com). If you are a student, please ask your instructor for help. The reviewers who provided many helpful suggestions throughout the development of this project are acknowledged on page [SP]s[SP]s[SP]s, along with all of those who helped bring this project to fruition. We update our programming texts every few years and welcome your comments, criticisms, and suggestions.

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## Chapter 4 : Table of Contents

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