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## Coding Conventions

This page details the conventions used in the coding of the *Access2Base* API.

tags:  
Snippets of Code

### Library and Modules

- The *acConstants* module lists constants that are used in the API. They are defined as *Global*. Their name is identical as in *MSAccess*. Their value is in most cases identical to that of *MSAccess*, however not always. The scope of global constants is limited to one single library. As a consequence their definition may freely be copied and pasted to make them available in user libraries.
- The reserved words are *Proper-Cased* showing the same appearance as in the IDE of *MSAccess*.

### Functions and Subroutines

- *OpenOffice/LibreOffice* ignores the *Private/Public* attribute in Functions or Subs declarations. Nevertheless the attribute must be present. Rules for use are:

Attribute	Sub/Function Naming	When
Public	Starts with a letter	The Sub/Function belongs to the <i>Access2Base</i> API. As such it may be called from any other library developed by the user.
Public	Starts with an underscore "_"	The Sub/Function must be called only from within the <i>Access2Base</i> library. As such it MUST NOT be called from another library as there is no guarantee about the arguments, the logic or even the existence of that piece of code in a later release.

Private	The Sub/Function must start with an underscore " _ "	The Sub/Function must be called only from the module in which it is located
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- Functions and Subroutines belonging to the API (= "standard" functions/Subs) are defined in their module in alphabetical order.
- Functions and Subroutines not belonging to the API are defined in their module in alphabetical order below the standard ones.
- The return value of a function is always declared explicitly.
- The parameters are always declared explicitly even if they're variants.
- The Function and Sub declarations start at the 1<sup>st</sup> column of the line.
- The End Function/Sub statement is followed by a comment reminding the name of the function or sub.

## Variable declarations

- The *Option Explicit* statement is mandatory in every module.
- The Global, Dim and Const statements always start in the first column of the line.
- The type (Dim ... As ..., Function ... As ...) is always declared explicitly, even if the type is Variant.
- Variables are *Proper-Cased*. They are always preceded by a lower-case letter indicating their type. With next exception: variables i, j, k, l, m and n must be declared as integers.

First letter	Type
b	Boolean
d	Date
v	Variant
o	Object
i	Integer
l	Long
s	String

Example: `Dim sValue As String`

- Parameters are preceded by the letter *p* which itself precedes the single typing letter. Like in:  
`Public Function MyFunction(psValue As String) As Variant`
- Object variables are preceded by the letter *o* followed by their type:

First letter	Type
db	Database
f	Form or Subform
c	Control
e	Event
p	Property

like in: `Dim ocControl As Object`

- Global variables in the Access2Base library are ALL preceded by an underscore "\_" as NONE of them should be invoked from outside the library.
- Constant values with a local scope are *Proper-Cased* and preceded by the letters *cst*.
- Constants with a global scope are *UPPER-CASED*

Example

```
Global Const ACONSTANT = "This is a global constant"
Function MyFunction(pocControl As Object, piValue) As Variant
Dim iValue As Integer
Const cstMyConstant = 3
```

## Goto

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The *Goto* statement is forbidden.

It is however highly recommended for error and exception handling.

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