

Can I define one or more data items based on the definition of another one?

It is possible to define a single or group data item based on the definition of one defined previously. Use this to make sure that data items with a similar purpose have the same structure.

The SAME AS clause is what makes this possible.

Consider the following example of working-storage data items to store names. The second and third use the SAME AS clause so that all three names are the same size and type.

```
77 customer-name      pic x(50).  77 sales-executive-  
name same as customer-name.  77 supervisor-name    same as customer-name.
```

You can then move up to 50 characters to each of those data items as follows.

```
move "Adam Smith"      to customer-name  move  
"Alessandra Vivaldi" to sales-executive-name  move "Juan Ramirez"    to supervisor-name
```

You can also use the SAME AS clause for group items. Consider the case when you define a date data item with a detailed structure and you want other date items to have the same structure. You can define them as in the following example, with the birth-date using the SAME AS clause:

```
01 contract-date.      05 dt-yy pic 9(4).    05 filler pic x value "-".    05 dt-  
mm pic 9(2).          05 filler pic x value "-".    05 dt-dd pic 9(2).  01 birth-  
date same as contract-date.
```

And then you can assign values to the child items of each group item as follows:

```
move 2021 to dt-yy of contract-date  move 05 to dt-mm of contract-  
date  move 30 to dt-dd of contract-date  move 1990 to dt-yy of birth-  
date  move 10 to dt-mm of birth-date  move 17 to dt-dd of birth-date
```

So, if you display the contract-date and birth-date you would see the following:

```
contract date: 2021-05-30    birth    date: 1990-10-17
```

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