

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

Author: Veryant Support

Saved From: <http://support.veryant.com/support/phpkb/question.php?ID=321>

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
```