

# Definition of Dynamic Variables

Because the actual size of large alphanumeric and binary data structures may not be exactly known at application development time, the definition of *dynamic* variables of Format A or B can be used to manage these structures. The dynamic allocation and extension (reallocation) of large variables is transparent to the application programming logic. Dynamic variables are defined without any length. Memory will be either implicitly allocated at execution time when the dynamic variable is used as a target operand, or explicitly with an EXPAND or RESIZE statement.

Dynamic variables can only be defined in a DEFINE DATA statement using the following syntax:

<i>level</i>	<i>variable-name</i>	( <b>A</b> )	<b>DYNAMIC</b>
<i>level</i>	<i>variable-name</i>	( <b>B</b> )	<b>DYNAMIC</b>

**Note:**

The following restrictions apply to a dynamic variable:

- A redefinition of a dynamic variable is not allowed.
- A dynamic variable may not be contained in a **REDEFINE clause**.

[Back to Statement Usage Related Topics.](#)