



## Add a Watch Expression

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowAddWatchExpressionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowAddWatchExpressionS"}
```

A watch expression is an expression you define to be monitored in the **Watch** window. When your application enters break mode, the watch expressions you selected appear in the **Watch** window where you can observe their values.

### ► To add a watch expression

- 1 On the **Debug** menu, click **Add Watch**.

The **Add Watch** dialog box is displayed.

- 2 If an expression is already selected in the **Code** window, it is automatically displayed in the **Expression** box. If no expression is displayed, enter the expression you want to evaluate. The expression can be a variable, a property, a function call, or any other valid expression.
- 3 Select a module or procedure context in the **Context** group to select the range for which the expression will be evaluated.

**Note** Select the narrowest scope that fits your needs. Selecting all procedures or all modules can slow down module execution considerably, since the expression is evaluated after execution of each statement. If you select a specific procedure for a context, execution is affected only while the procedure is in the list of active procedure calls. Choose **Call Stack** from the **View** menu to display the list of active procedures.

- 4 Select an option in the **Watch Type** group to define how the system responds to the watch expression.
  - To display the value of the watch expression, click **Watch Expression**.
  - To stop execution if the expression evaluates to **True**, click **Break When Value is True**.
  - To stop execution when the value of the expression changes, click **Break When Value Changes**.
- 5 Click **OK**.

## Check or Add an Object Library Reference

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowCheckAddObjectLibraryReferenceC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowCheckAddObjectLibraryReferenceS"}
```

If you use the objects in other applications as part of your Visual Basic application, you may want to establish a reference to the object libraries of those applications. Before you can do that, you must first be sure that the application provides an object library.

### ▶ **To see if an application provides an object library**

- 1 From the **Tools** menu, choose **References** to display the **References** dialog box.
- 2 The **References** dialog box shows all object libraries registered with the operating system. Scroll through the list for the application whose object library you want to reference. If the application isn't listed, you can use the **Browse** button to search for object libraries (\*.olb and \*.tlb) or executable files (\*.exe and \*.dll). References whose check boxes are checked are used by your project; those that aren't checked are not used, but can be added.

### ▶ **To add a object library reference to your project**

- Select the object library reference in the **Available References** box in the **References** dialog box and click **OK**.

Your Visual Basic project now has a reference to the application's object library. If you open the **Object Browser** (press F2) and select the application's library, it displays the objects provided by the selected object library, as well as each object's methods and properties. In the **Object Browser**, you can select a class in the **Classes** box and select a method or property in the **Members** box. Use copy and paste to add the syntax to your code.


# Continue Code Execution

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowContinueCodeExecutionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowContinueCodeExecutionS"}

When you run your code, execution may stop if:


- An untrapped run-time error occurs.
- A trapped run-time error occurs, and **Break on All Errors** is selected on the **General** tab of the **Options** dialog box (**Tools** menu).
- A previously set breakpoint is encountered.
- A watch expression, which you set to break when the value has changed or break when the value is true, is encountered.
- A **Stop** statement in your code is encountered, switching the mode to break mode.
- An **End** statement in your code is encountered, switching the mode to design time.
- You halt execution manually at a given point.

## ► To halt execution manually

1 To switch to break mode, choose **Break** (CTRL+BREAK) from the **Run** menu, or use the toolbar shortcut: 

2 To switch to design time, choose **Reset <projectname>** from the **Run** menu, or use the toolbar shortcut: 

## ► To continue execution when your application has halted

- On the **Run** menu, click **Continue** (F5), or use the toolbar shortcut:   
— or —
- On the **Debug** menu, click **Step Into** (F8), **Step Over** (SHIFT+F8), **Step Out** (CTRL+SHIFT+F8), or **Run To Cursor** (CTRL+F8).

## ► To continue execution when your application has halted because of a handled error

- Press ALT+F8 to step through the error-handler.  
— or —
- Press ALT+F5 to resume execution by running through the error-handler.

## Copy Example Code from Help

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowCopyExampleCodeFromHelpC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowCopyExampleCodeFromHelpS"}
```

Sometimes you may want to copy a useful example from Visual Basic Help. While many of the examples require more code to work correctly, some examples are useful to see how a particular procedure on control flow technique behaves.

### ► **To copy example code from Help to your application**

- 1** Use Help to display the topic for the language element whose example you want to use.
- 2** Click the Example link in the non-scrolling region near the top of the page. The code example is displayed.
- 3** Right-click and select the part of the code you want to copy to your application.
- 4** Choose **Copy** from the shortcut menu.
- 5** Move the focus back to the **Code** window and position the mouse pointer where you want the code example to be inserted.
- 6** Right-click again and choose **Paste** to insert the code example into the **Code** window.

**Tip** You can also press CTRL+C to copy a selected example in a Help window. Press CTRL+V to paste the example into the **Code** window.

## Create a Procedure

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowCreateProcedureC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowCreateProcedureS"}
```

Code within a module is organized into procedures. A procedure tells the application how to perform a specific task. Use procedures to divide complex code tasks into more manageable units.

### ► To create a procedure by writing code

- 1 Open the module for which you want to write the procedure.  
You can create a **Sub**, **Function**, or **Property** procedure.
- 2 Type **Sub**, **Function**, or **Property**.  
Press F1 to get Help with syntax, if necessary.
- 3 Type code for the procedure.  
Visual Basic concludes the procedure with the appropriate **End Sub**, **End Function**, or **End Property** statement.

### ► To create a procedure using the Insert Procedure dialog box

- 1 Open the module for which you want to write the procedure.
- 2 On the **Insert** menu, click **Procedure**.
- 3 Type the name for the procedure in the **Name** box of the **Insert Procedure** dialog box.
- 4 Select the type of procedure you want to create: **Sub**, **Function**, or **Property**.
- 5 Set the procedure's scope to either **Public** or **Private**.
- 6 You can select the **All Local Variables as Statics** to add the **Static** keyword to the procedure definition.
- 7 Click **OK**.

## Delete a Watch Expression

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowDeleteWatchExpressionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowDeleteWatchExpressionS"}
```

- **To delete a watch expression in the Watch Window, do any of the following:**
- Select the watch expression and press DELETE.
  - Select the expression and choose **Clear** from the **Edit** menu.
  - Select the expression, choose **Edit Watch** from the **Debug** menu, and then press DELETE.
  - Right-click the expression and choose **Delete Watch** from the context menu.

## Edit a Watch Expression

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowEditWatchExpressionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowEditWatchExpressionS"}
```

### ► To edit a watch expression

- 1 Double-click the watch expression in the **Watch** window.  
— or —  
Select the expression and choose **Edit Watch** from the **Debug** menu.  
— or —  
Right-click the expression and choose **Edit Watch** from the context menu.
- 2 Make any changes to the expression, the context, and the watch type.
- 3 Click **OK**.



## Enter a Declaration in Code

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowEnterDeclarationC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowEnterDeclarationS"}
```

Declarations are nonexecutable code statements that name external procedures, constants, or variables and define their attributes (such as data type). You write declarations for form, standard, or class modules. To enter module-level declarations, go to the Declarations section of a module. To enter global declarations, go to the Declarations section of a module and use the **Public** statement for constants and variables. You can also use the **Dim**, **Static**, and **Private** keywords to make declarations.

You can also enter procedure-level declarations. For whatever code level and technique you use to declare a variable or constant, specific scoping rules may apply.

### ► To open the Declarations section of a module

- 1 In the **Project** window, select the form, standard, or class module you want to open and click the **View Code** button.

— or —

Right-click and choose **View Code** from the context menu.

- 2 In the **Object box**, select **(General)**.  
The **Procedure box** automatically displays **(Declarations)**.
- 3 Enter one or more declarations.

## Execute a Specific Statement

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowExecuteSpecificStatementC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowExecuteSpecificStatementS"}
```

While execution of your code is halted, you can control the execution sequence of statements within a procedure. You can resume execution at a statement you choose without executing any intervening code.

### ► To set the next statement to be executed

- 1 In the **Code** window, position the insertion point anywhere within the statement.
- 2 On the **Debug** menu, click **Set Next Statement** (CTRL+F9).

— or —

Position the mouse pointer in the margin indicator next to the current execution point.

- 3 Drag the yellow arrow in the margin indicator to the statement you want to execute next.

**Note** You can only skip to statements within the same procedure.

Used in combination with **Step Into**, executing specific statements with the **Set Next Statement** command enables you to step through procedures one statement at a time, and to closely examine your code. It's also helpful for correcting or avoiding run-time error conditions.

## Find a Procedure

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowFindProcedureC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowFindProcedureS"}

### ► To find a procedure in the Code window

- To view an existing general procedure, select **(General)** in the **Object box** in the **Code** window, and then select the procedure in the **Procedure box**.
- To view an event procedure, select the appropriate object in the **Object box** in the **Code** window, and then select the event in the **Procedure box**.

**Note** To visually separate procedures in the **Code** window, you can select the **Procedure Separator** check box on the **Editor** tab of the **Options** dialog box (**Tools** menu). You can switch between Procedure view and Full Module view using the buttons in the lower-left corner of the **Code** window.

### ► To find a procedure in another module

- 1 On the **View** menu, click **Object Browser**, or press F2.
- 2 Select the project in the **Project/Library** box.
- 3 Select the module in the **Classes** list.
- 4 Double-click the procedure name in the **Members of** list.  
The selected procedure is displayed in the **Code** window.

You can use the following keyboard shortcuts:

<b>Press</b>	<b>To</b>
CTRL+DOWN ARROW	Display the next procedure.
CTRL+UP ARROW	Display the previous procedure.
PAGE DOWN	Page down through the procedures in your code.
PAGE UP	Page up through the procedures in your code.
F2	Display the <b>Object Browser</b> .

## Find a Variable Definition

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowFindVariableDefinitionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowFindVariableDefinitionS"}

- ▶ **To view the definition of a variable**
  - 1 In the **Code** window, select the variable whose definition you want to see.
  - 2 From the **View** menu, choose **Definition** (SHIFT+F2).
- ▶ **To return the mouse pointer to its previous position**
  - On the **View** menu, click **Last Position** (CTRL+SHIFT+F2).

## Import a Text File into Code

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowImportTextFileIntoCodeC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowImportTextFileIntoCodeS"}
```

You can import a text file containing code into the current module and use it in your code.

### ► **To import a text file into a module**

- 1** Open the module into which you want to insert text and position the entry point at the place where you want the text inserted.
- 2** On the **Insert** menu, click **File**.
- 3** The **Insert File** dialog box appears.
- 4** Use the **Insert File** dialog box to select the file to import.
- 5** Click **OK**.

## Replace Text in Code

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowReplaceTextInCodeC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowReplaceTextInCodeS"}

### ► To replace text in a module

- 1 On the **Edit** menu, click **Replace**.  
The **Replace** dialog box appears.
- 2 In the **Find What** box, type the text you want to search for.
- 3 In the **Replace With** box, type the replacement text.
- 4 Select a **Search** option to specify where to look for the text.
- 5 Select a direction from the **Direction** list to specify the direction of the search.
- 6 To set limits on the search, select:
  - **Find Whole Words Only** to search for the complete word by itself, and not as part of another word.
  - **Match Case** for an exact match.
  - **Use Pattern Matching** to use wildcard characters.
- 7 Choose **Find Next** if you want to confirm the change before replacing the text; choose **Replace** to replace the highlighted occurrence of the found text and automatically perform a **Find Next**; or choose **Replace All** to change all occurrences of the search text automatically.

## Restart Execution

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowRestartExecutionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowRestartExecutionS"}
```

You can restart execution from break mode. Restarting returns the code to a newly initialized state, resetting all variables and removing any suspended procedures from memory.

► **To restart execution**

**1** On the **Run** menu, click **Reset <projectname>**, or use the toolbar shortcut: ►

**2** On the **Run** menu, click **Run Sub/UserForm (F5)**, or use the toolbar shortcut: 

## Search for Text in Code

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSearchForTextInCodeC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSearchForTextInCodeS"}

### ► To search for specific text in a module

- 1 On the **Edit** menu, click **Find**.

The **Find** dialog box appears.

- 2 In the **Find What** box, type the text you want to search for (if you didn't select the text before displaying the dialog box).
- 3 Select a **Search** option to specify where to look for the text.
- 4 Select a direction from **Direction** list to specify the direction of the search.
- 5 To set limits on the search, select:
  - **Find Whole Words Only** to search for the complete word by itself and not as part of another word.
  - **Match Case** to find an exact match.
  - **Use Pattern Matching** to use wildcards or ranges.
- 6 Choose **Find Next**.



## Set a Reference to a Type Library

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSetReferenceToTypeLibC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSetReferenceToTypeLibS"}
```

Automation (formerly OLE Automation) enables you to use objects from other applications in Visual Basic code. An application that provides its objects for use by other applications also provides information about those objects in a type library. To achieve the best possible performance when using another application's objects, you should set a reference to that application's type library.

### ► To set a reference to an application's type library

- 1 Click **References** on the **Tools** menu.
- 2 Select the check boxes for the applications with type libraries you want to reference.

If you are writing code that manipulates objects in another application, you should set a reference to that application's type library for best possible access to those objects. You don't have to set a reference to use another application's objects, but doing so provides several advantages for your application.

Your code will run faster if you set a reference to another application's type library before you work with its objects. If you set a reference, you can declare an object variable representing an object in the other application as its most specific type. For example, if you are writing code to work with Microsoft Excel objects, you can declare an object variable of type **Excel.Application** if you created a reference to the Microsoft Excel type library. The following code is the fastest way to create a variable to represent the Microsoft Excel **Application** object.

```
Dim appXL As Excel.Application
```

If you haven't set a reference to the Microsoft Excel type library, you must declare the variable as a generic variable of type **Object**. The following code runs more slowly.

```
Dim appXL As Object
```

If you set a reference to an application's type library, all of its objects and their methods and properties are listed in the **Object Browser**. This makes it easy to determine what properties and methods are available to each object.


For Microsoft applications that can also serve as Automation servers, you can set references to their type libraries from another application, and control their objects from that application.

## Set and Clear a Breakpoint

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSetClearBreakpointsC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSetClearBreakpointsS"}
```

You set a breakpoint to suspend execution at a specific statement in a procedure; for example, where you suspect problems may exist. You clear breakpoints when you no longer need them to stop execution.

### ► To set a breakpoint

- 1 Position the insertion point anywhere in a line of the procedure where you want execution to halt.
- 2 On the **Debug** menu, click **Toggle Breakpoint** (F9), click next to the statement in the **Margin Indicator Bar** (if visible), or use the toolbar shortcut: 

The breakpoint is added and the line is set to the breakpoint color defined on the **Editor** tab in the **Options** dialog box.

If you set a breakpoint on a line that contains several statements separated by colons (:), the break always occurs at the first statement on the line.

### ► To clear a breakpoint

- 1 Position the insertion point anywhere on a line of the procedure containing the breakpoint.
- 2 From the **Debug** menu, choose **Toggle Breakpoint** (F9), or click next to the statement in the **Margin Indicator Bar** (if visible.)
- 3 The breakpoint is cleared and highlighting is removed.

### ► To clear all breakpoints in the application

- From the **Run** menu, choose **Clear All Breakpoints** (CTRL+SHIFT+F9).

**Note** Breakpoints set in code are not saved when you save your code.

# Set Project Properties

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSetProjectPropertiesC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSetProjectPropertiesS"}

## ► To set Project Properties

- 1 From the **Tools** menu, choose **<projectname> Properties**
- 2 Use the **General** tab in the **<projectname> Properties** dialog box to specify the following:
  - name of your project.
  - description of your project.
  - name of the Help file associated with your project
  - context ID for the specific Help topic to be called when the user clicks the **Help** button while the application's object library is selected in the **Object Browser**.
- 3 Use the **Protection** tab in the **<projectname> Properties** dialog box to lock the project from viewing by others and specify a password for access to project properties. After you set protection, you must save and close your project for the protection to take effect.

# Set Visual Basic Environment Options

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSetVBEOptionsC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSetVBEOptionsS"}

On the **Tools** menu of the Visual Basic editor, click **Options**.

## Editor

<u>Option</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Auto Syntax Check</b>	Visual Basic automatically verifies correct syntax after you enter a line of code.
<b>Require Variable Declaration</b>	Explicit variable declarations are required in <u>modules</u> .
<b>Auto List Members</b>	At the insertion point, Visual Basic displays information that logically completes a statement.
<b>Auto Quick Info</b>	Information about functions and their <u>arguments</u> is displayed as you type.
<b>Auto Data Tips</b>	Automatically display the value of any <u>variable</u> on which you place the mouse pointer. Available only in <u>break mode</u> .
<b>Auto Indent</b>	After tabbing the first line of code, all subsequent lines start at that tab location.
<b>Tab Width</b>	The tab width, which can range from 1 – 32 spaces. (Default is 4 spaces.)
<b>Drag-Drop in Editor</b>	Code elements can be dragged from the <b>Code</b> window into the Immediate or <b>Watch</b> windows.
<b>Default to Full Module View</b>	<u>procedures</u> for new modules are displayed in the <b>Code</b> window as a single, scrollable list or one procedure at a time.
<b>Procedure Separator</b>	Display separator bars at the end of each procedure in the <b>Code</b> window.

## Editor Format

<u>Option</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Foreground, Background, and Indicator</b>	The color of different categories of text listed in the <b>Color Text</b> list.
<b>Font</b>	The font used for displaying code.
<b>Size</b>	The size of the font used for code.
<b>Margin Indicator Bar</b>	Display the <b>Margin Indicator Bar</b> .

## General

<u>Option</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Show Grid</b>	Display a grid on a form.
<b>Width</b>	The width of the grid cells on a form.
<b>Height</b>	The height of the grid cells on a form.
<b>Align Controls to Grid</b>	Automatically position the outer edge of controls on the closest grid lines.
<b>Show ToolTips</b>	Display ToolTips for toolbar buttons.

<b>Collapse Proj. Hides Windows</b>	Automatically close the project, <b>UserForm</b> , object, or module windows when a <u>project</u> is collapsed in the <b>Project Explorer</b> .
<b>Edit and Continue</b>	Display a message that a requested action will cause all module-level variables to be reset for a running project.
<b>Break on All Errors</b>	Any error causes the project to enter break mode, whether or not an error handler is active, and whether or not the code is in a <u>class module</u> .
<b>Break in Class Module</b>	Any unhandled error produced in a class module causes the project to enter break mode at the line of code which produced the error.
<b>Break on Unhandled Errors</b>	Any other unhandled error causes the project to enter break mode.
<b>Compile on Demand</b>	A project is fully compiled before it starts, or code is compiled as needed.
<b>Background Compile</b>	Use idle time during run time to finish compiling the project in the background. (Available only if <b>Compile on Demand</b> is set.)

## Docking

<b>Option</b>	<b>Description</b>
The check box for the appropriate window	A window can be anchored to an adjacent dockable window or the Visual Basic Editor window.

## Split the Code Window

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowSplitCodeWindowC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowSplitCodeWindowS"}
```

You can split the **Code** window horizontally into two panes to view different code segments of a module at the same time. Each pane scrolls separately, both horizontally and vertically. The **Procedure** and **Object box** options refer to the pane that has the focus. Code changes are immediately reflected in both panes.

- ▶ **To split the Code window into panes**
  - Drag the split bar at the top of the vertical scroll bar down from the upper-right corner of the **Code** window.
- ▶ **To remove a split from the Code window**
  - Double-click the split bar or drag it to the top or bottom of the **Code** window.

## Start Code Execution

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowStartCodeExecutionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowStartCodeExecutionS"}

One way to test your code is to run it and work with it as a user would.

### ► **To start code execution**

- Choose **Start** (F5) from the **Run** menu.

If your application doesn't run, it may be because:

- A syntax error or some other error exists in your code.
- A logic error exists in your code, which may result in a run-time error.

To get Help, click the **Help** button or press F1 while the error message is displayed. Consider the suggestions provided to correct the error before you run your code again.

# Stop Code Execution

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowStopCodeExecutionC"} {ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowStopCodeExecutionS"}

As you run your code, it may stop executing for one of the following reasons:

- An untrapped run-time error occurs.
- A trapped run-time error occurs, and **Break on All Errors** is selected on the **General** tab in the **Options** dialog box.
- A breakpoint is encountered.
- A watch expression that you set to break if its value changes or becomes true is encountered.
- A **Stop** statement is encountered in your code, switching the mode to break mode.
- An **End** statement is encountered in your code, switching the mode to design time.
- You halt execution manually at a given point.

## ▶ **To halt execution manually**

- To switch to break mode, from the **Run** menu, choose **Break** (CTRL+BREAK), or use the toolbar shortcut: ▶
- To switch to design time, from the **Run** menu, choose **Reset <projectname>**, or use the toolbar shortcut: ▶

## ▶ **To continue execution when your application has halted**

- From the **Run** menu, choose **Continue** (F5), or use the toolbar shortcut: ▶  
— or —
- From the **Run** menu, choose **Step Into** (F8), **Step Over** (SHIFT+F8), **Step Out** (CTRL+SHIFT+F8), or **Run To Cursor** (CTRL+F8).



## Trace Code Execution

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowTraceCodeExecutionC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowTraceCodeExecutionS"}

You trace code execution because it may not always be obvious which statement is executed first. Use these techniques to trace the execution of code:

- **Step Into:** Traces through each line of code and steps into procedures. This allows you to view the effect of each statement on variables.
  - **Step Over:** Executes each procedure as if it were a single statement. Use this instead of **Step Into** to step across procedure calls rather than into the called procedure.
  - **Step Out:** Executes all remaining code in a procedure as if it were a single statement, and exits to the next statement in the procedure that caused the procedure to be called initially.
  - **Run To Cursor:** Allows you to select a statement in your code where you want execution to stop. This allows you to "step over" sections of code, for example, large loops.
- ▶ **To trace execution from the current statement**
- From the **Debug** menu, choose **Step Into** (F8), **Step Over** (SHIFT+F8), **Step Out** (CTRL+SHIFT+F8), or **Run To Cursor** (CTRL+F8).
- ▶ **To trace execution from the beginning of the program**
- From the **Debug** menu, choose **Step Into** (F8), **Step Over** (SHIFT+F8), **Step Out** (CTRL+SHIFT+F8), or **Run To Cursor** (CTRL+F8).

## Turn Syntax Checking On or Off

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowTurnSyntaxCheckingOnOffC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowTurnSyntaxCheckingOnOffS"}

Visual Basic includes a syntax-checking feature that:

- Checks each statement as you enter it for syntax errors, such as a misspelled keyword or missing separator, and alerts you if there are errors.
- Translates the code to an internal form if the syntax is correct, which speeds the transition to run time.

This feature is turned on when you first start, but you can turn it off if you prefer to write code without being alerted to errors as they occur.

### ► **To enable syntax checking**

- 1 From the **Tools** menu, choose **Options**.
- 2 Select the **Editor** tab.
- 3 Select the **Auto Syntax Check** check box.
- 4 Click **OK**.

### ► **To disable syntax checking**

- 1 Click **Options** on the **Tools** menu.
- 2 Select the **Editor** tab.
- 3 Clear the **Auto Syntax Check** check box.
- 4 Click **OK**.

## Use Quick Watch

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowUseQuickWatchC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowUseQuickWatchS"}

In break mode, you may want to check the current value of a variable or expression for which you haven't defined a watch expression. Do this using the **Quick Watch** command.

### ► To display a Quick Watch

**1** Select an expression in the module where it resides.

**2** From the **Debug** menu, choose **Quick Watch** (SHIFT+F9).

The **Quick Watch** dialog box displays the current value of the expression you selected.

— or —

Right-click and choose **Quick Info** from the context menu. The data type of the expression is displayed.

**3** To add a watch expression based on the expression in the **Quick Watch** dialog box, choose **Add**.

## Use the Immediate Window

```
{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowUseImmediateWindowC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowUseImmediateWindowS"}
```

The **Immediate** window displays information resulting from debugging statements in your code or from commands typed directly into the window.

- ▶ **To display the Immediate window**
  - From the **View** window, choose **Immediate** window (CTRL+G).
- ▶ **To execute code in the Immediate window**
  - 1 Type a line of code in the **Immediate** window.
  - 2 Press ENTER to execute the statement.

Use the **Immediate** window to:

- Test problematic or newly written code.
- Query or change the value of a variable while running an application. While execution is halted, assign the variable a new value as you would in code.
- Query or change a property value while running an application.
- Call procedures as you would in code.
- View debugging output while the program is running.

**Note** **Immediate** window statements are executed in a context — that is, as if they are entered in a specific module.

If you need help on syntax for functions, statements, properties, or methods while working in the **Immediate** window, select the keyword, the property name, or the method name, and press F1.


## Use the Object Browser

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowUseObjectBrowserC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowUseObjectBrowserS"}

The **Object Browser** allows you to browse through all available objects in your project and see their properties, methods and events. In addition, you can see the procedures and constants that are available from object libraries in your project. You can easily display online Help as you browse. You can use the **Object Browser** to find and use objects you create, as well as objects from other applications.

You can get help for the **Object Browser** by searching for **Object Browser** in Help.

### ► To navigate the Object Browser


- 1 Activate a module.
- 2 From the **View** menu, choose **Object Browser** (F2), or use the toolbox shortcut: 
- 3 Select the name of the project or library you want to view in the **Project/Library** list.
- 4 Use the **Classes** list to select the class; use the **Members** list to select specific members of your class or project.
- 5 View information about the class or member you selected in the **Details** section at the bottom of the window.
- 6 Use the **Help** button to display the Help topic for the class or member you selected.

## Use the Project Explorer

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowUseProjectExplorerC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowUseProjectExplorerS"}

The **Project Explorer** displays a hierarchical list of the projects and all of the items contained and referenced by each project.

### ► To navigate the Project Explorer

- 1 From the **Display** menu, choose **Project Explorer** (CTRL+R), or use the toolbox shortcut: 
- 2 Select an item from the collapsible tree in the **List** window.
- 3 Click the **View Code** button to open the **Code** window to begin entering code.  
— or —  
Click the **View Object** button to open a window containing the specified object.  
— or —  
Click the **Toggle Folders** button to toggle between folder view and folder contents view.

## Use the Properties Window

{ewc HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"See Also":"vahowUsePropertiesWindowC"} {ewc  
HLP95EN.DLL,DYNALINK,"Specifics":"vahowUsePropertiesWindowS"}

The **Properties** window lists the design-time properties for selected objects and their current settings. You can change these properties at design time. When you select multiple controls, the **Properties** window contains a list of the properties common to all the selected controls.

### ▶ **To navigate the Properties window**

- 1 From the **View** menu of the Visual Basic Editor, choose **Properties** window (F4)
- 2 Select the object whose properties you want to display. You can either use the mouse to select the object or use the **Project Explorer** to choose from a list.
- 3 Click the **Alphabetical** tab to display properties in alphabetical order, or click the **Categorization** tab to display object properties by category.

### ▶ **To change a property's value**

- 1 Select the property in the left column.
- 2 Change the property's value in the right column.

**Note** You can enter a property's value in the right column. For those properties that have a predefined set of values, click the value and then select one from the values displayed in the list box.





