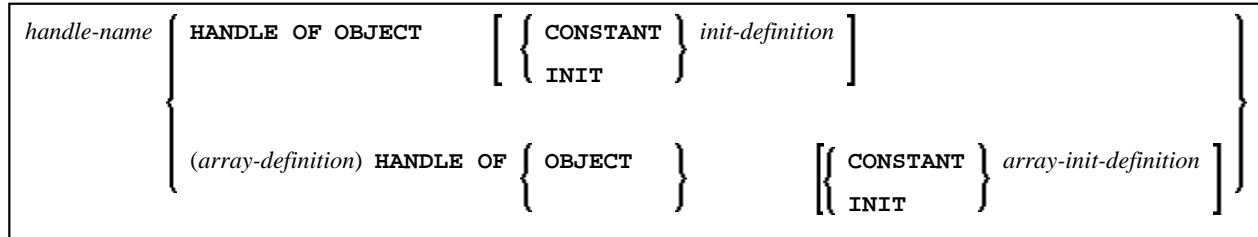


# Handle Definition

The *handle-definition* used with `DEFINE DATA LOCAL`, `DEFINE DATA OBJECT`, `DEFINE DATA PARAMETER`, `DEFINE DATA INDEPENDENT` and `DEFINE DATA CONTEXT` has the following syntax:



This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function
- Syntax Description

For an explanation of the symbols used in the syntax diagram, see *Syntax Symbols*.

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## Function

A handle identifies a dialog element in code and is stored in handle variables. For further information, see the section *NaturalX* in the *Programming Guide*.

The `HANDLE` definition in the `DEFINE DATA` statement is generated automatically on the creation of a dialog element or dialog.

After having defined a handle, you can use the handle-name in any statement to query, set or modify attribute values for the defined dialog-element-type.

### Examples of *handle-definition*:

```
1 #SAVEAS-MENUITEM HANDLE OF MENUITEM
1 #OK-BUTTON (1:10) HANDLE OF PUSHBUTTON
```

## Syntax Description

<i>handle-name</i>	The name to be assigned to the handle; the naming conventions for user-defined variables apply; see <i>Naming Conventions for User-Defined Variables</i> in the <i>Using Natural</i> documentation.
<b>HANDLE OF OBJECT</b>	Is used in conjunction with NaturalX as described in the section <i>NaturalX</i> in the <i>Programming Guide</i> .
<b>CONSTANT</b>	<p>The variable/array is to be treated as a named constant. The constant value(s) assigned will be used each time the variable/array is referenced. The value(s) assigned cannot be modified during program execution.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For reasons of internal handling, it is not allowed to mix variable definitions and constant definitions within one group definition; that is, a group may contain either variables only or constants only.</li> <li>2. The <b>CONSTANT</b> clause must not be used with <code>DEFINE DATA INDEPENDENT</code> and <code>DEFINE DATA CONTEXT</code>.</li> </ol>
<b>INIT</b>	<p>The variable/array is to be assigned an initial value. This value will also be used when this variable/array is referenced in a <code>RESET INITIAL</code> statement.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> With <code>DEFINE DATA INDEPENDENT</code> and <code>DEFINE DATA CONTEXT</code>, the <b>INIT</b> clause is evaluated in each executed programming object that contains this clause (not only in the programming object that allocates the variable). This is different to the way the <b>INIT</b> works for global variables.</p>
<i>init-definition</i>	With the <i>init-definition</i> option, you define the initial/constant values for a variable. See <i>Initial-Value Definition</i> .
<i>array-definition</i>	With an <i>array-definition</i> , you define the lower and upper bounds of dimensions in an array-definition. See <i>Array Dimension Definition</i> .
<i>array-init-definition</i>	The array is to be assigned an initial value. This value will also be used when this array is referenced in a <code>RESET INITIAL</code> statement.