

# ExcelTemplate.Open(String)

## Description

Opens an ExcelWriter template spreadsheet. A template is a file created in Microsoft Excel that contains data markers where data source values will be inserted.

**C#**

```
public virtual void Open(System.String fileName)
```

**vb.net**

```
Public Overridable Sub Open(ByVal fileName As String)
```

## Parameters

### *templateFileName*

The complete path and file name of the template Excel file.

## Exceptions

### *ArgumentNullException*

[Open](#) will throw this exception if `null` (C#) or `Nothing` (VB.NET) is passed to the method.

### *ArgumentException*

## Remarks

If your template file is the new Office Open XML (.xlsx) format, you can pass it into the [Open](#) method just as you would a BIFF8 (.xls) Excel file. You will need to remember to give the output file a ".xlsx" extension when you call [Save](#), as ExcelWriter cannot convert .xlsx files to .xls.

## Examples

## C#

```
//--- Open an Excel BIFF8 (.xls) file
oExcelTemplate.Open(Application["templatepath"] +
    @"\DataBinding\EmployeeOrdersTemplate.xls");

//--- Open an Office Open XML Excel (.xlsx) file
oExcelTemplate.Open(Application["templatepath"] +
    @"\DataBinding\EmployeeOrdersTemplate.xlsx");
```

## vb.net

```
'--- Open an Excel BIFF8 (.xls) file
oExcelTemplate.Open(Application("templatepath") & _
    "\DataBinding\EmployeeOrdersTemplate.xls")

'--- Open an Office Open XML Excel (.xlsx) file
oExcelTemplate.Open(Application("templatepath") & _
    "\DataBinding\EmployeeOrdersTemplate.xlsx")
```