

# ExcelApplication.Open(String)

## Description

Opens an existing Excel spreadsheet.

**C#**

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

**vb.net**

```
Public Overridable Function Open(ByVal fileName As String) As Workbook
```

## Parameters

### *fileName*

The path and name of the file to open. The path can be relative or absolute. The file must be a OOXML format (Excel 2007 or later) .xlsx file or BIFF8 format (Excel 97 or later) .xls file.

## Returns

A [Workbook](#) object representing the file opened.

## Exceptions

### *System.Exception*

If the file cannot be found or opened, or if ExcelWriter cannot parse the file as a OOXML or BIFF8 file.

## Remarks

ExcelWriter supports Excel's OOXML (Excel 2007 or later) and BIFF8 (Excel 97 or later) format only. Do not use this method to open BIFF7 (Excel 95) files.

## Examples

**C#**

```
Workbook wb = xla.Open(@"C:\Reports\Report.xlsx");
```

**vb.net**

```
Dim wb As Workbook = xla.Open("C:\Reports\Report.xlsx")
```