read statement, this statement allows you to specifically read individual records from a table.

If you're working with a standard table with a non-unique standard key, then you would write the read statement like this.



This means we're reading the fifth record of our internal table into our header record. The beauty of using the read statements is it is the fastest way to access the records of an internal table. And using the index specifically is the fastest form of this read statement itself. This type of access is about three times faster than using a hash algorithm.



You're not just limited to using a unique key. You can use other fields as well. But the problem there is that it is difficult to know exactly which record you will be reading

Again, you won't have a clue if there are any more records that match without adding extra code to carry out some extra checking. You know, such as check to see if the record was found, if it was found, read the next record and again, see if that record was found.

Now, this read statement we've just seen can also be used for sorted tables and hash tables.

When you specify the key fields to use in your search. The system will run a binary search for sorted tables and use a hash algorithm for hash tables. If the fields you choose to use are not key fields, the system will carry out a sequential search for the sorted-out hash tables.