First, with header lines, and then with work areas.

When working with Internal Tables, you will see that there are many occasions when you want to delete all the records of the Internal Table in one go.

As an example, if you were to fill in the Internal Table whilst you were inside that higher level loop, often, you will need to make sure your table is empty at the start of the loop. So that when the next iteration of the loop comes around, you are not left with any records from the previous iteration.

Now there's a certain sequence of tasks that you should really adhere to, when deleting the contents of a table with a header line. First, you must make sure you clear out the header line. Then make sure you clear out the body of the Internal Table.

So first, clear out the header line, and we use the clear statements.



we do is say clear, and then the table name. And this will clear out the header line only.

By specifying the Table after the clear statement, the header line will be wiped clean, meaning all fields will be set to their initial value.

Then, to deal with the table body that contains all your records. We use the clear statement again but this time, we used two square brackets at the end of the table name.



Now there is another way clearing out the records of a table. All we do is say Refresh and the table name. And by using this statement, you delete all the records in the table, but you still must keep in mind your header record still contains values. It is untouched by the refresh statement.

Free Statement. Now, not only does this statement empty out the records from the Internal Table, but it also frees up the memory being used by your program. It doesn't mean your Internal Table no longer exists; it just means that it's been emptied out of memory. So, if you need to access the Internal Table again, maybe to fill it with records, then you can do so. It's just that the program when it does that, it needs to reserve the memory space again.

So, the free statement does, you know, the same job as the clear statement with the two square brackets and the refresh statement. But it has the added benefit of emptying out the memory used from your program, it clears it out. So, it releases the memory to be used by some other process. And just like with the other two statements, the header line is unaffected. So don't forget to use the clear statement, to clear your header line.