

# Creating a Snippet File

To create a snippet file, you must create an XML file, and then write the XML code that makes up your code snippet. For more information on any of the XML elements used in the following examples, see [Code Snippets Schema Reference](#).

## To create a snippet file

1. In Visual Studio, create a new XML file.
2. Below the automatically generated line of XML, add a **CodeSnippets** element with the proper **xmlns** attribute value, and a **CodeSnippet** element to create an individual code snippet. For example:

Copy

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<CodeSnippets
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/2005/CodeSnippet">
  <CodeSnippet Format="1.0.0">

    </CodeSnippet>
  </CodeSnippets>
```

3. Add a header section to the code snippet. For example:

Copy

```
<Header>
  <Title>
    My Snippet
  </Title>
</Header>
```

4. Add the elements that define the code snippet itself. In the following example, the language of the code snippet is Visual Basic.

Copy

```
<Snippet>
  <Code Language="VB">

  </Code>
</Snippet>
```

### Note

The **Language** attribute also accepts the values **CSharp**, **VJSharp**, and **XML**. For more information, see [Code Element \(IntelliSense Code Snippets\)](#).

5. Inside the **Code** element, add the Visual Basic code for the snippet. All snippet code must be placed between `<![CDATA[` and `]]>` brackets. In the following example, the code that will be inserted is `MessageBox.Show("Hello World")`.

Copy

```
<![CDATA[MessageBox.Show("Hello World")]]>
```

6. Inside the **Snippet** element, add the **References** element and all of the required child elements that add a reference to the project when the snippet is inserted. In this example, the code snippet adds a reference to `System.Windows.Forms.dll` when the snippet is inserted.

### Note

Only Visual Basic code snippets support the **References** section. Code snippets in other languages require that the correct references be added manually.

Copy

```
<Snippet>
  <References>
    <Reference>
      <Assembly>System.Windows.Forms.dll</Assembly>
    </Reference>
  </References>
  <Code Language="VB">
    <![CDATA[MessageBox.Show("Hello World")]]>
  </Code>
</Snippet>
```

7. Save the file as %USER\_PROFILE%\My Documents\Visual Studio Version\Code Snippets\Visual Basic\HelloWorld.snippet. All snippet files must have a .snippet extension.

You should see this snippet in the **Code Snippets Manager** (on the **Tools / Options** menu). On the drop-down list at the top, set the language to Visual Basic, and look in the **My Code Snippets** folder.

## Example

Here is the complete Visual Basic code snippet that you completed in the previous steps.

Copy

```
<CodeSnippets
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/2005/CodeSnippet">
  <CodeSnippet Format="1.0.0">
    <Header>
      <Title>
        My Snippet
      </Title>
    </Header>
    <Snippet>
      <References>
        <Reference>
          <Assembly>System.Windows.Forms.dll</Assembly>
        </Reference>
      </References>
      <Code Language="VB">
        <![CDATA[MessageBox.Show("Hello World")]]>
      </Code>
    </Snippet>
  </CodeSnippet>
</CodeSnippets>
```

Here is a Visual C# version of the code snippet created in the previous steps. Visual C# code snippets do not support the **References** section, so you need to add reference to System.Windows.Forms.dll to the project later on.

Copy

```
<CodeSnippets
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/2005/CodeSnippet">
  <CodeSnippet Format="1.0.0">
```

```
<Header>
  <Title>
    My Snippet
  </Title>
</Header>
<Snippet>
  <Code Language="CSharp">
    <![CDATA[MessageBox.Show("Hello World");]]>
  </Code>
</Snippet>
</CodeSnippet>
</CodeSnippets>
```