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# Command Reference: ReadTimeSeries()

## Read a single time series using a full time series identifier

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The `ReadTimeSeries()` reads a single time series using the time series identifier to uniquely identify the time series. This generalized command is useful for converting time series identifiers from the TSTool interface into read commands that assign an alias to a time series. Because the command is generic, it does not offer specific parameters that may be found in read commands for specific input types. Use the specific read commands where available for additional functionality and more specific error handling. See also the `ReadTimeSeriesList()` command.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax of the command.

**Edit ReadTimeSeries() Command**

This command is a general time series read command.  
Its main purpose is to assign an alias to a time series, which is more convenient to use than the long time series identifier.  
Read commands for specific input types generally offer more options and should be used if available.  
The alias should be descriptive and should not contain spaces, periods, or parentheses.  
Specify the period to read using the `SetInputPeriod()` command.  
See also the `ReadTimeSeriesList()` command.

Time series identifier:	<input type="text" value="08235350.USGS.Streamflow.Day~HydroBase"/>	Required - needed to locate data to read.
Alias to assign:	-- Select Specifier -- => <input type="text" value="ts1"/>	Required - use %L for location, etc.
If time series not found?:	<input type="text" value="Warn"/>	Required - how to handle time series that are not found.
Default units:	<input type="text"/>	Optional - units when IfNotFound=Default.

Command:

```
ReadTimeSeries (TSID="08235350.USGS.Streamflow.Day~HydroBase", Alias="ts1", IfNotFound=Warn)
```

ReadTimeSeries

### ReadTimeSeries() Command Editor

The command syntax is as follows:

```
ReadTimeSeries (Parameter=Value,...)
```

The following older command syntax is updated to the above syntax when a command file is read:

```
TS Alias = ReadTimeSeries (Parameter=Value,...)
```

#### Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
TSID	The time series identifier of the time series to read. The identifier should include the input type (and input name, if required). See the input type appendices for examples of time series identifiers for various input types. Can be specified using <code>\${Property}</code> notation.	None – must be specified.
Alias	The alias to assign to the time series, as a literal string or using the special formatting characters listed by the command editor. The alias is a short identifier used by other commands to locate time series for processing, as an alternative to the time series identifier (TSID).	None – must be specified.
IfNotFound	Indicates how to handle missing time series, one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warn – generate fatal warnings and do not include in output.</li> <li>Ignore – generate non-fatal warnings and do not include in output.</li> <li>Default – generate non-fatal warnings and create empty time series for those that could not be found. This requires that a <code>SetOutputPeriod()</code> command be used before the command to define the period for default time series.</li> </ul>	Warn
DefaultUnits	Default units when <code>IfNotFound=Default</code> .	Blank – no units.

A sample command file to read data from the State of Colorado's HydroBase is as follows:

```
ReadTimeSeries (TSID="08235350.USGS.Streamflow.Day~HydroBase",Alias=TS1)
```