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Last Revision: 2019/12/12

Last Build: 2021/10/13

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# Serial.readBytes()

## Description

`Serial.readBytes()` reads characters from the serial port into a buffer. The function terminates if the determined length has been read, or times out (see [Serial.setTimeout\(\)](#)).

`Serial.readBytes()` returns the number of characters placed in the buffer. A 0 means no valid data was found.

`Serial.readBytes()` inherits from the [Stream](#) utility class.

## Syntax

`Serial.readBytes(buffer, length)`

## Parameters

**serial:** serial port object. See the list of available serial ports for each board on the [Serial main page](#).

**buffer:** the buffer to store the bytes in. Allowed data types: array of char or byte.

**length:** the number of bytes to read. Allowed data types: int.

## Returns

The number of bytes placed in the buffer. Data type: `size_t`.

## See also

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LANGUAGE [stream.readBytes\(\)](#)

Help

