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 $\langle number \rangle = \langle filename \rangle$

This command tells TEX to open the file named $\langle filename \rangle$ and make it available for reading via the input stream designated by $\langle number \rangle$. $\langle number \rangle$ must be between 0 and 15. Once you've opened a file and connected it to an input stream, you can read from the file using the \read command with the input stream's number.

You can associate more than one input stream with the same file. You can then read from several different positions within the file, one for each input stream.

You should allocate \openin stream numbers with \newread (p. '\@newread').

Example:

\newread\auxfile \openin\auxfile = addenda.aux
% \auxfile now denotes the number of this opening
% of addenda.aux.