

# ✓ Guidelines for Requesting Help and Reporting Bugs in FutureBasic

Thank you for using **FutureBasic** — a project powered by community and offered freely to all. You get the **FutureBasic app**, **regular updates**, **example code**, **documentation**, a **mailing list**, and **website**, all at **no cost**.

To help us help you, please read the following before posting questions or submitting bug reports.

## ◆ Before You Ask

- **Search first:** Someone may have already asked a similar question.
- **Update FutureBasic:** Make sure you're using the latest release.
- **Try to reproduce the issue** with minimal code before reporting it.

## ◆ When Asking for Help

Please include **enough context** for others to reproduce your issue. Specifically:

### 1 Post complete, runnable code

Your snippet must compile and run *as-is*. That means:

- Include all `dim`, `begin` `globals`, or `local fn` declarations.
- Define all constants/macros you reference.
- Avoid referring to values or variables defined “elsewhere” — if they're needed, include them.

### 2 If a full example isn't possible, include clear steps to reproduce the issue

- Describe exactly what you did, what you expected, and what happened.
- Include any relevant code snippets that help show the problem.

### 3 Be specific

- What is the expected behavior?
- What actually happens (e.g. error messages, crash, wrong output)?
- What version of FutureBasic/macOS are you using?

### 4 Add comments if needed

Clarify tricky parts of your code so others can quickly understand what it's supposed to do.

## ◆ When Reporting a Bug

- 1 Include a minimal, reproducible example**
  - If possible, post a **standalone code snippet** that shows the problem.
  - If not, describe the **steps to reproduce the issue** in detail.
- 2 Describe the problem clearly**
  - What did you expect to happen?
  - What happened instead?
  - Include any error messages or screenshots, if applicable.
- 3 Tell us your setup**
  - FutureBasic version
  - macOS version
  - Compiler flags (if custom)

## 💡 Bonus Tips

- Use **comments** like `// Explanation here` to clarify intent.
- **If you're not sure what's relevant**, include more rather than less — we can help trim it down.
- **Be patient and courteous** — everyone here is volunteering their time, just like you.

## ❤ Remember

FutureBasic is a labor of love, not a commercial product. It's made and maintained by volunteers who believe in making programming fun, accessible, and Mac-native.

By taking the time to post a clear and complete question, you:

- Save time for yourself and others
- Get better and faster responses
- Help build a stronger FB community