

3. INPUT, READ, AND DATA STATEMENTS

INPUT

You can use the INPUT command with or without a prompting statement. For example, the command INPUT A\$,B\$ will print a question mark on the screen and then let the user type in data for A\$ and B\$. If you want to give the user some instruction about what to enter, you can use the INPUT command with a prompting message:

```
10 INPUT "Enter date in form DD-MMM-YY "T$
```

The above line will print---Enter date in form DD-MMM-YY---and then let the user type in the date. Note that a question mark is not printed; if you want one, you must put it in the message. The command INPUT ""T\$ will print neither a question mark nor a prompting message.

INPUTLINE

The INPUT command is limited to strings without commas, because commas are already used to separate data items. For example, if you give the command INPUT A\$,B\$ and the user enters SMITH, JOHN then A\$ will be set to SMITH and B\$ to JOHN. Or if you give the command INPUT A\$ and the user enters SMITH, JOHN then A\$ will be set to SMITH and JOHN will be ignored. The INPUTLINE command solves this problem. It brings in all of the data entered by the user (except the carriage return) and sets it equal to a string. For example:

```
10 INPUTLINE A$
```

If the user types SMITH, JOHN in response to this request for data, A\$ is set equal to SMITH, JOHN. Note that you must always input the data into a single string variable. All the following commands will give syntax errors: INPUTLINE A INPUTLINE A\$,B\$ INPUTLINE A\$,B%.

A prompting message may be used with INPUTLINE:

```
INPUTLINE "ENTER NAME "T$
```

READ and DATA

Advan BASIC READ and DATA commands work about the same way as they do in ATARI and most other BASICs. Note that string information in DATA statements should not be enclosed in quotation marks:

```
10 READ A$,A$,B
20 DATA 5,ABC,2.7
30 PRINT A$,A$,B
RUN
5 ABC 2.7
```

One problem in data statements is how to get a comma into a string; the same problem as with the INPUT command. Since commas are used to separate data items, if you want to use one or more commas in a string you need to do something special. In Advan BASIC you can enter a comma in INVERSE mode.