

# Clean ABAP

# The Golden Rules

## Names

Use descriptive names

~~max\_wait\_time\_in\_seconds, iso3166tab.~~

## Language

Prefer object orientation over imperative programming

I.e. classes over functions and reports

Prefer functional over procedural language constructs

E.g. `index += 1` instead `ADD 1 to index`

## Comments

Express yourself in code, not in comments

Delete code instead of commenting it

## Formatting

Optimize for reading, not for writing

## Constants

Use constants instead of magic numbers

E.g. `typekind_date` instead `'D'`

## Tables

Use the right table type

**HASHED:** large, filled at once, never modified, read often

**SORTED:** large, always sorted, filled over time or modified, read often

**STANDARD:** small, array-like

## Booleans

Use `XSDBOOL` to set Boolean variables

`empty = xsdbool( itab IS INITIAL )`

## Conditions

Try to make conditions positive

`IF has_entries = abap_true.`

Consider decomposing complex conditions

`DATA(example_provided) = xsdbool(...)`  
`IF example_provided = abap_true AND one_example_fits = abap_true.`

## ifs

Keep the nesting depth low

```
ELSE-  
  IF <other>.  
  ELSE-  
    IF <something>.
```

## Regular expressions

Consider assembling complex regular expressions

`CONSTANTS classes ...`  
`CONSTANTS interfaces ...`  
`... = |{ classes }|{ interfaces }|.`

## Classes: Object orientation

Prefer objects to static classes

Prefer composition over inheritance

`DATA delegate TYPE REF TO`  
`CLASS a DEFINITION INHERITING FROM`

Don't mix stateful and stateless in the same class

## Classes: Scope

Members **PRIVATE** by default, **PROTECTED** only if needed

## Testing: Principles

Write testable code

*There are no tricks to writing tests, there are only tricks to writing testable code. (Google)*

Enable others to mock you

`CLASS my_super_object DEFINITION.`  
`INTERFACES you_can_mock_this.`

Readability rules

`given_some_data( ).`  
`do_the_good_thing( ).`  
`and_assert_that_it_worked( ).`

## Test classes

Call local test classes by their purpose

`CLASS unit_tests`  
`CLASS tests_for_the_class_under_test`

## Code under test

Test interfaces, not classes

`DATA cut TYPE REF TO some_interface`  
`DATA cut TYPE REF TO some_class`

## Injection

Use test seams as temporary workaround

They are *not* a permanent solution!

Don't misuse **LOCAL FRIENDS** to invade the tested code

`CLASS unit_tests LOCAL FRIENDS cut.`  
`cut->db_reader = stub_db_reader`

## Test Methods

Test methods names: reflect what's given and expected

`METHODS accepts_empty_user_input`  
`METHODS test_1`

Use given-when-then

`given_some_data( ).`  
`do_the_good_thing( ).`  
`assert_that_it_worked( ).`

“When” is exactly one call

`given_some_data( ).`  
`do_the_good_thing( ).`  
`and_another_good_thing( ).`  
`assert_that_it_worked( ).`

## Assertions

Few, focused assertions

`assert_not_initial( itab ).`  
`assert_equals( act = itab exp = exp ).`

Use the right assert type

`assert_equals( act = itab exp = exp ).`  
`assert_true( itab = exp ).`

Assert content, not quantity

`assert_contains_message( key )`  
`assert_equals( act = lines( messages )`  
`exp = 3 ).`

Assert quality, not content

`assert_all_lines_shorter_than( ... )`

## Methods: Object orientation

Prefer instance to static methods

`METHODS a`  
`CLASS METHODS a`

Public instance methods should be part of an interface

`INTERFACES the_interface.`  
`METHODS a`

## Methods: Method body

Do one thing, do it well, do it only

Descend one level of abstraction

`do_something_high_level( ).`  
`DATA(low_level_op) = |a { b }|.`

Keep methods small

3-5 statements, one page, 1000 lines

## Methods: Parameter number

Aim for few **IMPORTING** parameters, at best less than three

`METHODS a IMPORTING b c d e`

Split methods instead of adding **OPTIONAL** parameters

`METHODS a IMPORTING b`  
`METHODS c IMPORTING d`  
~~`METHODS x`~~  
~~`IMPORTING b`~~  
~~`d`~~

**RETURN**, **EXPORT**, or **CHANGE** exactly one parameter

~~`METHODS do_it`~~  
~~`EXPORTING a`~~  
~~`CHANGING b`~~

## Error handling: Return codes

Prefer exceptions to return codes

`METHODS check RAISING EXCEPTION`  
~~`METHODS check RETURNING result`~~

Don't let failures slip through

`DATA(result) = check( input )`  
`IF result = abap_false.`

## Error handling: Exceptions

Exceptions are for errors, not for regular cases

Use class-based exceptions

`METHODS do_it RAISING EXCEPTION`  
~~`METHODS do_it EXCEPTIONS`~~

## Error handling: Throwing

Throw one type of exception

`METHODS a RAISING EXCEPTION b c d`

Throw **CX\_STATIC\_CHECK** for manageable situations

`RAISE EXCEPTION no_customizing`

Throw **CX\_NO\_CHECK** for usually unrecoverable situations

`RAISE EXCEPTION db_unavailable`

## Error handling: Catching

Wrap foreign exceptions instead of letting them invade your code

`CATCH foreign INTO DATA(error).`  
`RAISE EXCEPTION NEW my( error ).`  
~~`RAISE EXCEPTION error.`~~