

**NAME**

`creat` – create a new file

**SYNOPSIS**

(`creat = 8.`)

**`sys creat; name; mode`**  
**(file descriptor in `r0`)**

**`creat(name, mode)`**  
**`char *name;`**

**DESCRIPTION**

*Creat* creates a new file or prepares to rewrite an existing file called *name*, given as the address of a null-terminated string. If the file did not exist, it is given mode *mode*. See `chmod(II)` for the construction of the *mode* argument.

If the file did exist, its mode and owner remain unchanged but it is truncated to 0 length.

The file is also opened for writing, and its file descriptor is returned (in `r0`).

The *mode* given is arbitrary; it need not allow writing. This feature is used by programs which deal with temporary files of fixed names. The creation is done with a mode that forbids writing. Then if a second instance of the program attempts a *creat*, an error is returned and the program knows that the name is unusable for the moment.

**SEE ALSO**

`write(II)`, `close(II)`, `stat(II)`

**DIAGNOSTICS**

The error bit (c-bit) may be set if: a needed directory is not searchable; the file does not exist and the directory in which it is to be created is not writable; the file does exist and is unwritable; the file is a directory; there are already 10 files open.

From C, a `-1` return indicates an error.