4

Using Conversion Functions and Conditional Expressions

Objectives

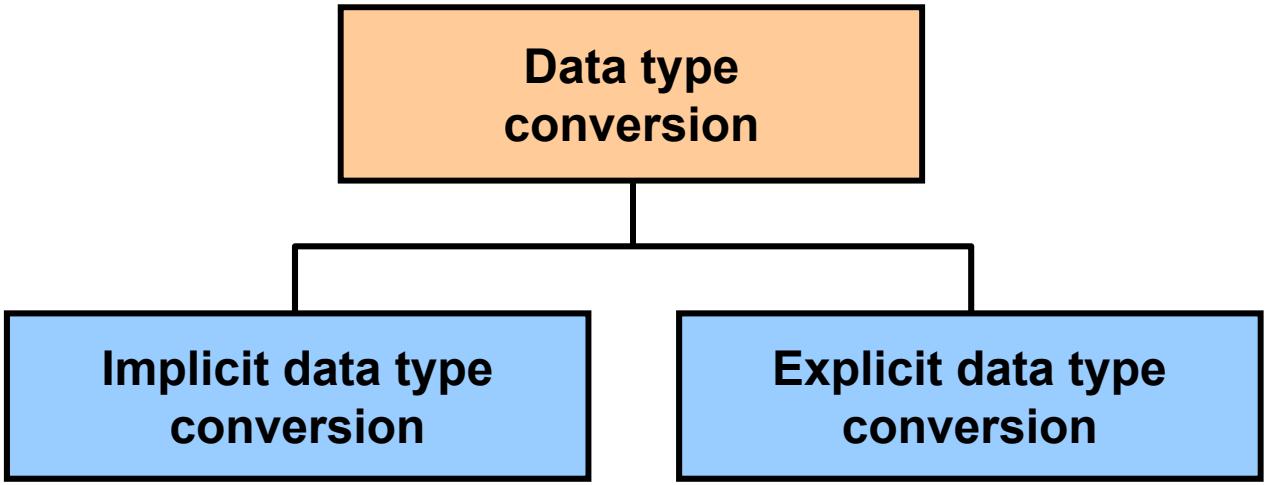
After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe various types of conversion functions that are available in SQL
- Use the `TO_CHAR`, `TO_NUMBER`, and `TO_DATE` conversion functions
- Apply conditional expressions in a `SELECT` statement

Lesson Agenda

- Implicit and explicit data type conversion
- TO_CHAR, TO_DATE, TO_NUMBER functions
- Nesting functions
- General functions:
  - NVL
  - NVL2
  - NULLIF
  - COALESCE
- Conditional expressions:
  - CASE
  - DECODE

Conversion Functions



Implicit Data Type Conversion

In expressions, the Oracle server can automatically convert the following:

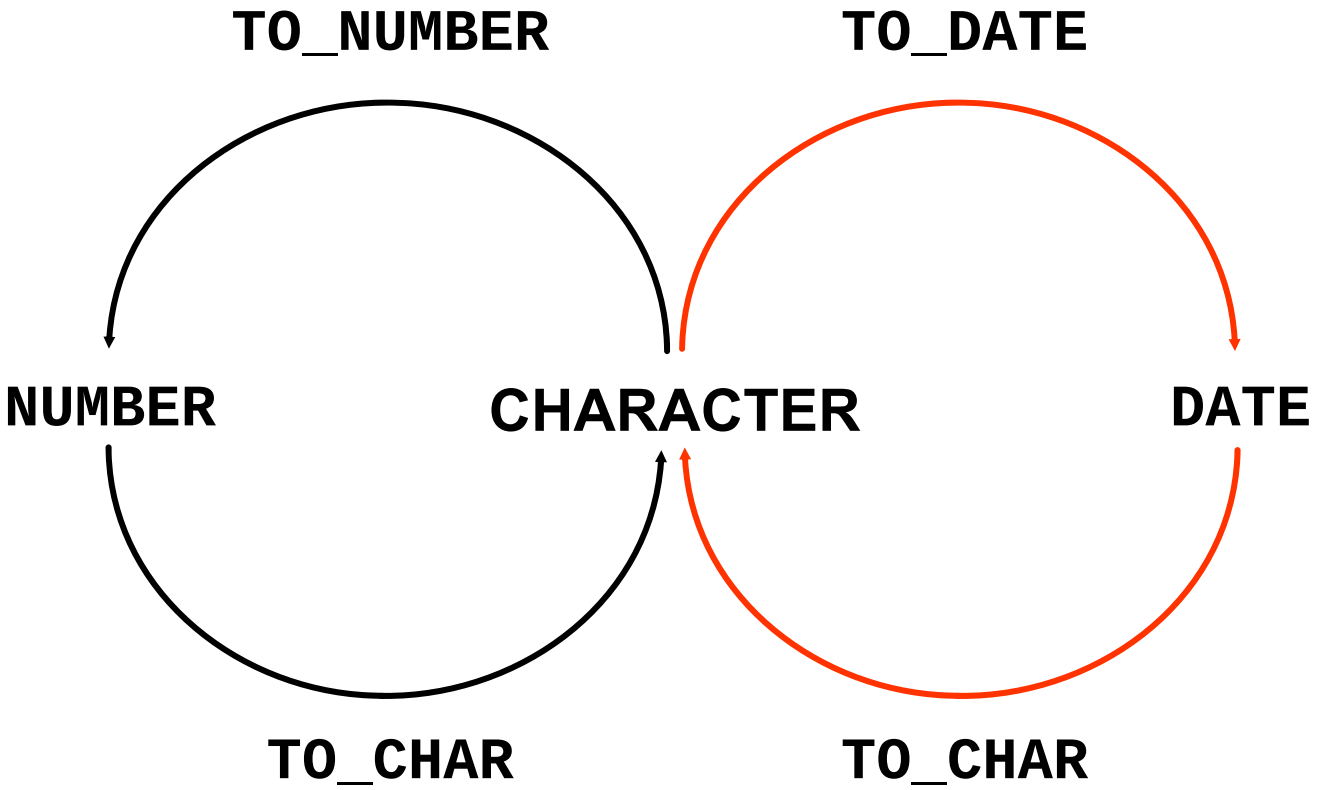
From	To
VARCHAR2 or CHAR	NUMBER
VARCHAR2 or CHAR	DATE

Implicit Data Type Conversion

For expression evaluation, the Oracle server can automatically convert the following:

From	To
NUMBER	VARCHAR2 or CHAR
DATE	VARCHAR2 or CHAR

Explicit Data Type Conversion



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Using the TO_CHAR Function with Dates

```
TO_CHAR(date, 'format_model')
```

The format model:

- Must be enclosed with single quotation marks
- Is case-sensitive
- Can include any valid date format element
- Has an `fm` element to remove padded blanks or suppress leading zeros
- Is separated from the date value by a comma

Elements of the Date Format Model

Element	Result
YYYY	Full year in numbers
YEAR	Year spelled out (in English)
MM	Two-digit value for the month
MONTH	Full name of the month
MON	Three-letter abbreviation of the month
DY	Three-letter abbreviation of the day of the week
DAY	Full name of the day of the week
DD	Numeric day of the month

Elements of the Date Format Model

Format	Result
YYYY	2017
Year	Two Thousand Seventeen
MM	03
MONTH	MARCH
Month	March
month	march
MON	MAR
DY	MON
DAY	MONDAY
DD	6

Elements of the Date Format Model

- Time elements format the time portion of the date:

`HH24:MI:SS AM`	`15:45:32 PM`

- Add character strings by enclosing them with double quotation marks:

`DD "of" MONTH`	`12 of OCTOBER`

- Number suffixes spell out numbers:

`ddspth`	`fourteenth`

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Dates

```
SELECT last_name,
       TO_CHAR(hire_date, 'fmDD Month YYYY')
       AS HIREDATE
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	HIREDATE
1	King	17 June 1987
2	Kochhar	21 September 1989
3	De Haan	13 January 1993
4	Hunold	3 January 1990
5	Ernst	21 May 1991
6	Lorentz	7 February 1999
7	Mourgos	16 November 1999
8	Rajs	17 October 1995
9	Davies	29 January 1997
10	Matos	15 March 1998
...		
19	Higgins	7 June 1994
20	Gietz	7 June 1994

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Dates

```
SELECT employee_id,
       TO_CHAR(hire_date, 'MM/YY') month
FROM   employees
WHERE  last_name = 'Higgins';
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	MONTH
205	06/94

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Dates

Schrijf een query die familienaam en de datum van indienst treding weergeeft van elke werknemer. De datum moet op volgende manier worden getoond: Seventeenth of June, 1987.

```
SELECT last_name, TO_CHAR(hire_date,
                 'fmDdspth "of" Month, YYYY') hiredate
FROM employees;
```

LAST_NAME	HIREDATE
King	Seventeenth of June, 1987
Kochhar	Twenty-First of September, 1989
De Haan	Thirteenth of January, 1993
Hunold	Third of January, 1990
Ernst	Twenty-First of May, 1991
Lorentz	Seventh of February, 1999
Mourgos	Sixteenth of November, 1999
Rajs	Seventeenth of October, 1995

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Numbers

```
TO_CHAR(number, 'format_model')
```

These are some of the format elements that you can use with the TO_CHAR function to display a number value as a character:

Element	Result
9	Represents a number
0	Forces a zero to be displayed
$	Places a floating dollar sign
L	Uses the floating local currency symbol
.	Prints a decimal point
,	Prints a comma as a thousands indicator

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Numbers

```
SELECT TO_CHAR(salary, '$99,999.00') SALARY
FROM   employees
WHERE  last_name = 'Ernst';
```

	SALARY
1	$6,000.00

Using the TO_NUMBER and TO_DATE Functions

- Convert a character string to a number format using the TO_NUMBER function:

```
TO_NUMBER(char[, 'format_model'])
```

- Convert a character string to a date format using the TO_DATE function:

```
TO_DATE(char[, 'format_model'])
```

- These functions have an fx modifier. This modifier specifies the exact match for the character argument and date format model of a TO_DATE function.

Using the TO_DATE Function

```
SELECT last_name, hire_date
FROM   employees
WHERE  hire_date = 'May 24, 1999';
```

```
…
WHERE  hire_date = TO_DATE ('May 24, 1999',
                            'Month DD, YYYY');
```

Lesson Agenda

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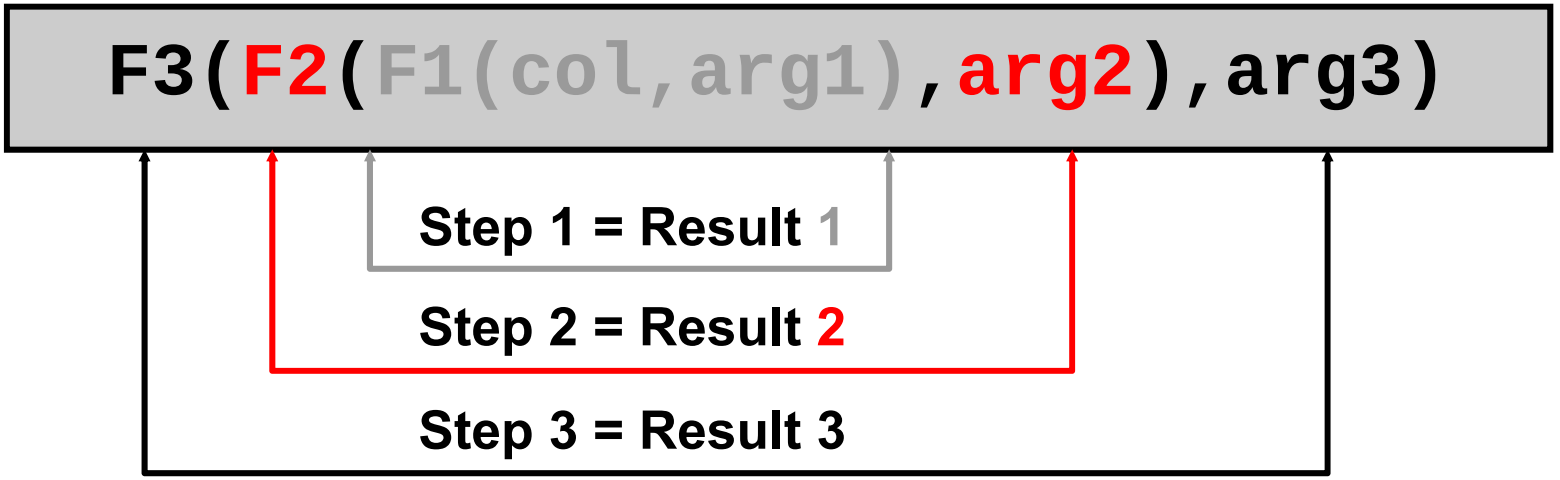
Nesting Functions

- Single-row functions can be nested to any level.
- Nested functions are evaluated from the deepest level to the least deep level.



Nesting Functions

```
SELECT last_name,
  UPPER(CONCAT(SUBSTR (LAST_NAME, 1, 8), '_US'))
FROM   employees
WHERE  department_id = 60;
```

	LAST_NAME	UPPER(CONCAT(SUBSTR(LAST_NAME,1,8),'_US'))
1	Hunold	HUNOLD_US
2	Ernst	ERNST_US
3	Lorentz	LORENTZ_US

Nesting Functions

Elke eerste maandag van de maand is het vergadering. Schrijf een query die de datum van de eerste maandag van de volgende maand weergeeft op de volgende manier: Monday, June 1st, 2015

```
SELECT TO_CHAR (NEXT_DAY (LAST_DAY(SYSDATE),'MONDAY'),
                      'fmDay, Month ddth, YYYY')
                      "Datum vergadering"
FROM DUAL;
```

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General Functions

The following functions work with any data type and pertain to using nulls:

- `NVL (expr1, expr2)`
- `NVL2 (expr1, expr2, expr3)`
- `NULLIF (expr1, expr2)`
- `COALESCE (expr1, expr2, ..., exprn)`

Using the NVL Function

Schrijf een query die de familienaam alsook de maandelijkse verdienste toont.

```
SELECT last_name, salary + salary * commission_pct
FROM employees;
```

NVL Function

Converts a null value to an actual value:

- Data types that can be used are date, character, and number.
- Data types must match:
  - `NVL(commission_pct,0)`
  - `NVL(hire_date,'01-JAN-97')`
  - `NVL(job_id,'No Job Yet')`

Using the NVL Function

```
SELECT last_name, salary, NVL(commission_pct, 0),
   (salary*12) + (salary*12*NVL(commission_pct, 0)) AN_SAL
FROM employees;
```

1

2

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	NVL(COMMISSION_PCT,0)	AN_SAL
1	King	24000	0	288000
2	Kochhar	17000	0	204000
3	De Haan	17000	0	204000
4	Hunold	9000	0	108000
5	Ernst	6000	0	72000
6	Lorentz	4200	0	50400
7	Mourgos	5800	0	69600
8	Rajs	3500	0	42000
9	Davies	3100	0	37200
10	Matos	2600	0	31200
11	Vargas	2500	0	30000
12	Zlotkey	10500	0.2	151200

...

1

2

Using the NVL2 Function

```
SELECT last_name,  salary, commission_pct,
       NVL2(commission_pct,
            'SAL+COMM', 'SAL') income
FROM   employees WHERE department_id IN (50, 80);
```

1

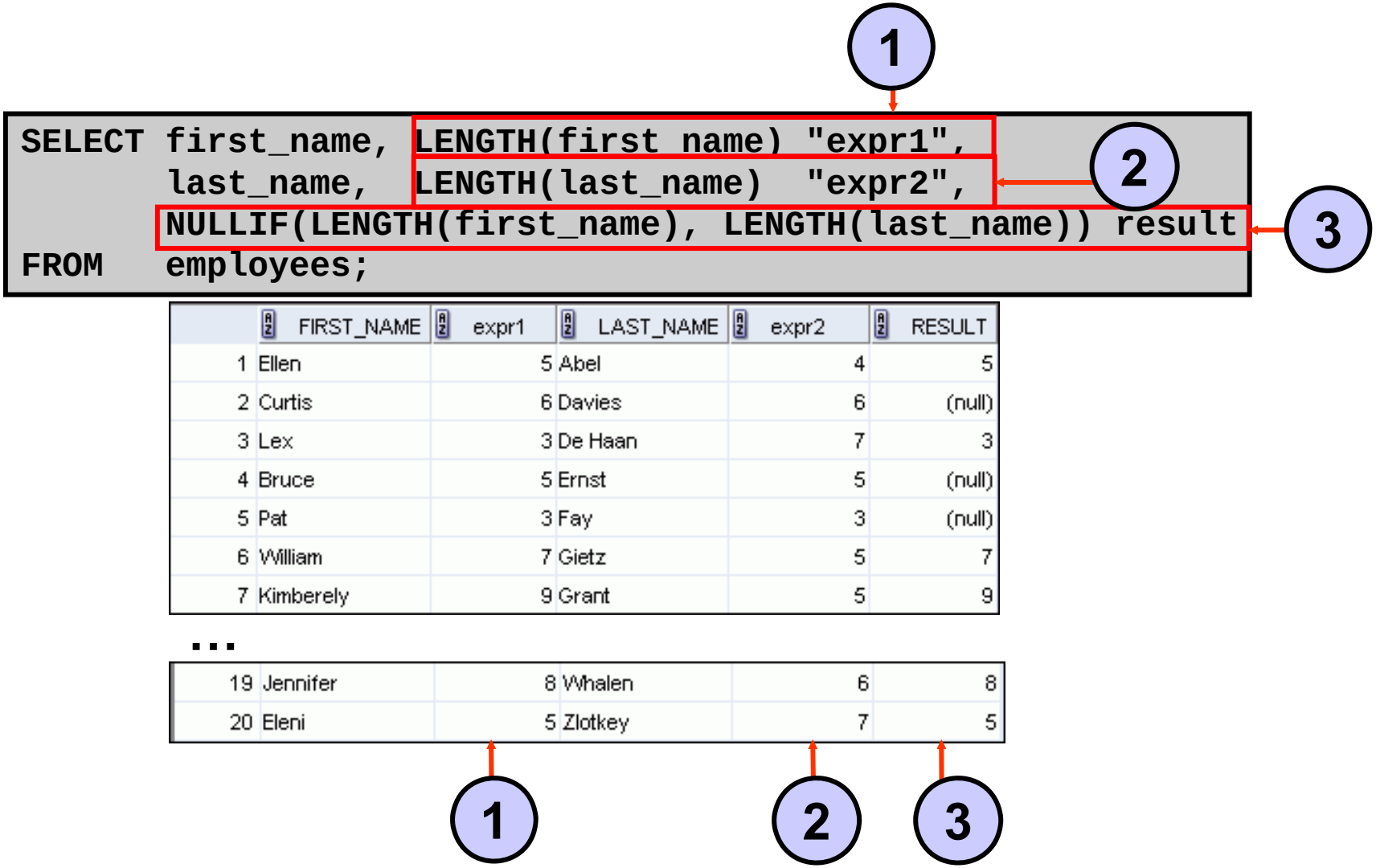
2

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT	INCOME
1	Mourgos	5800	(null)	SAL
2	Rajs	3500	(null)	SAL
3	Davies	3100	(null)	SAL
4	Matos	2600	(null)	SAL
5	Vargas	2500	(null)	SAL
6	Zlotkey	10500	0.2	SAL+COMM
7	Abel	11000	0.3	SAL+COMM
8	Taylor	8600	0.2	SAL+COMM

1

2

Using the NULLIF Function



Using the COALESCE Function

- The advantage of the COALESCE function over the NVL function is that the COALESCE function can take multiple alternate values.
- If the first expression is not null, the COALESCE function returns that expression; otherwise, it does a COALESCE of the remaining expressions.

Using the COALESCE Function

```
SELECT last_name, employee_id,
COALESCE(TO_CHAR(commission_pct),TO_CHAR(manager_id),
         'No commission and no manager')
FROM employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	EMPLOYEE_ID	COALESCE(TO_CHAR(COMI
1	King	100	No commission and no manager
2	Kochhar	101	100
3	De Haan	102	100
4	Hunold	103	102
5	Ernst	104	103
6	Lorentz	107	103
7	Mourgos	124	100
8	Rajs	141	124

...

12	Zlotkey	149	.2
13	Abel	174	.3
14	Taylor	176	.2
15	Grant	178	.15
16	Whalen	200	101

...

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Conditional Expressions

- Provide the use of the `IF-THEN-ELSE` logic within a SQL statement
- Use two methods:
  - `CASE` expression
  - `DECODE` function

CASE Expression

Facilitates conditional inquiries by doing the work of an `IF-THEN-ELSE` statement:

```
CASE expr WHEN comparison_expr1 THEN return_expr1
          [WHEN comparison_expr2 THEN return_expr2
           WHEN comparison_exprn THEN return_exprn
           ELSE else_expr]
END
```

Using the CASE Expression

Facilitates conditional inquiries by doing the work of an `IF-THEN-ELSE` statement:

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary,
       CASE job_id WHEN 'IT_PROG'  THEN  1.10*salary
                   WHEN 'ST_CLERK' THEN  1.15*salary
                   WHEN 'SA_REP'   THEN  1.20*salary
       ELSE       salary END     "REVISED_SALARY"
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY	REVISED_SALARY
...				
5	Ernst	IT_PROG	6000	6600
6	Lorentz	IT_PROG	4200	4620
7	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800	5800
8	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500	4025
9	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100	3565
...				
13	Abel	SA_REP	11000	13200
14	Taylor	SA_REP	8600	10320
...				

DECODE Function

Facilitates conditional inquiries by doing the work of a CASE expression or an IF-THEN-ELSE statement:

```
DECODE(col|expression, search1, result1
                       [, search2, result2,...,]
                       [, default])
```

Using the DECODE Function

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary,
       DECODE(job_id, 'IT_PROG',  1.10*salary,
                      'ST_CLERK', 1.15*salary,
                      'SA_REP',   1.20*salary,
              salary)
       REVISED_SALARY
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY	REVISED_SALARY
...				
6	Lorentz	IT_PROG	4200	4620
7	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800	5800
8	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500	4025
...				
13	Abel	SA_REP	11000	13200
14	Taylor	SA_REP	8600	10320
...				

Using the DECODE Function

Display the applicable tax rate for each employee in department 80:

```
SELECT last_name, salary,
       DECODE (TRUNC(salary/2000, 0),
                          0, 0.00,
                          1, 0.09,
                          2, 0.20,
                          3, 0.30,
                          4, 0.40,
                          5, 0.42,
                          6, 0.44,
                             0.45) TAX_RATE
FROM   employees
WHERE  department_id = 80;
```

Quiz

The TO_NUMBER function converts either character strings or date values to a number in the format specified by the optional format model.

1. True
2. False

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Alter date formats for display using functions
- Convert column data types using functions
- Use `NVL` functions
- Use `IF-THEN-ELSE` logic and other conditional expressions in a `SELECT` statement

Practice 4: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Creating queries that use TO_CHAR, TO_DATE, and other DATE functions
- Creating queries that use conditional expressions such as DECODE and CASE