**The following are number examples for the TO\_CHAR function.**

TO\_CHAR(1210.73, '9999.9')

*Result:* ' 1210.7'

TO\_CHAR(-1210.73, '9999.9')

*Result:* '-1210.7'

TO\_CHAR(1210.73, '9,999.99')

*Result:* ' 1,210.73'

TO\_CHAR(1210.73, '$9,999.00')

*Result:* ' $1,210.73'

TO\_CHAR(21, '000099')

*Result:* ' 000021'

**The following is a list of valid parameters when the TO\_CHAR function is used to convert a date to a string. These parameters can be used in many combinations.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Explanation** |
| YEAR | Year, spelled out |
| YYYY | 4-digit year |
| YYY YY Y | Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of year. |
| IYY IY I | Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of ISO year. |
| IYYY | 4-digit year based on the ISO standard |
| Q | Quarter of year (1, 2, 3, 4; JAN-MAR = 1). |
| MM | Month (01-12; JAN = 01). |
| MON | Abbreviated name of month. |
| MONTH | Name of month, padded with blanks to length of 9 characters. |
| RM | Roman numeral month (I-XII; JAN = I). |
| WW | Week of year (1-53) where week 1 starts on the first day of the year and continues to the seventh day of the year. |
| W | Week of month (1-5) where week 1 starts on the first day of the month and ends on the seventh. |
| IW | Week of year (1-52 or 1-53) based on the ISO standard. |
| D | Day of week (1-7). |
| DAY | Name of day. |
| DD | Day of month (1-31). |
| DDD | Day of year (1-366). |
| DY | Abbreviated name of day. |
| J | Julian day; the number of days since January 1, 4712 BC. |
| HH | Hour of day (1-12). |
| HH12 | Hour of day (1-12). |
| HH24 | Hour of day (0-23). |
| MI | Minute (0-59). |
| SS | Second (0-59). |
| SSSSS | Seconds past midnight (0-86399). |
| FF | Fractional seconds. |

The following are date examples for the TO\_CHAR function.

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'yyyy/mm/dd')

*Result:* '2003/07/09'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'Month DD, YYYY')

*Result:* 'July 09, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMonth DD, YYYY')

*Result:* 'July 9, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'MON DDth, YYYY')

*Result:* 'JUL 09TH, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMON DDth, YYYY')

*Result:* 'JUL 9TH, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMon ddth, YYYY')

*Result:* 'Jul 9th, 2003'

You will notice that in some TO\_CHAR function examples, the *format\_mask* parameter begins with "FM". This means that zeros and blanks are suppressed. This can be seen in the examples below.

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMonth DD, YYYY')

*Result:* 'July 9, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMON DDth, YYYY')

*Result:* 'JUL 9TH, 2003'

TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'FMMon ddth, YYYY')

*Result:* 'Jul 9th, 2003'

The zeros have been suppressed so that the day component shows as "9" as opposed to "09".

**The Oracle/PLSQL TO\_DATE function converts a string to a date.**

## SYNTAX

The syntax for the TO\_DATE function in Oracle/PLSQL is:

TO\_DATE( string1 [, format\_mask] [, nls\_language] )

### EXAMPLE

### TO\_DATE('2003/07/09', 'yyyy/mm/dd')

### Result: date value of July 9, 2003

### TO\_DATE('070903', 'MMDDYY')

### Result: date value of July 9, 2003

### TO\_DATE('20020315', 'yyyymmdd')

### Result: date value of Mar 15, 2002

### You could use the TO\_DATE function with the dual table as follows:

### SELECT TO\_DATE('2015/05/15 8:30:25', 'YYYY/MM/DD HH:MI:SS')

### FROM dual;

### This would convert the string value of 2015/05/15 8:30:25 to a date value.

### Parameters or Arguments

**string1**

The string that will be converted to a date.

**format\_mask**

**This is the format that will be used to convert string1 to a date. It can be one or a combination of the following values:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Explanation** |
| YEAR | Year, spelled out |
| YYYY | 4-digit year |
| YYY YY Y | Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of year. |
| IYY IY I | Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of ISO year. |
| IYYY | 4-digit year based on the ISO standard |
| RRRR | Accepts a 2-digit year and returns a 4-digit year. A value between 0-49 will return a 20xx year. A value between 50-99 will return a 19xx year. |
| Q | Quarter of year (1, 2, 3, 4; JAN-MAR = 1). |
| MM | Month (01-12; JAN = 01). |
| MON | Abbreviated name of month. |
| MONTH | Name of month, padded with blanks to length of 9 characters. |
| RM | Roman numeral month (I-XII; JAN = I). |
| WW | Week of year (1-53) where week 1 starts on the first day of the year and continues to the seventh day of the year. |
| W | Week of month (1-5) where week 1 starts on the first day of the month and ends on the seventh. |
| IW | Week of year (1-52 or 1-53) based on the ISO standard. |
| D | Day of week (1-7). |
| DAY | Name of day. |
| DD | Day of month (1-31). |
| DDD | Day of year (1-366). |
| DY | Abbreviated name of day. |
| J | Julian day; the number of days since January 1, 4712 BC. |
| HH | Hour of day (1-12). |
| HH12 | Hour of day (1-12). |
| HH24 | Hour of day (0-23). |
| MI | Minute (0-59). |
| SS | Second (0-59). |
| SSSSS | Seconds past midnight (0-86399). |
| AM, A.M., PM, or P.M. | Meridian indicator |
| AD or A.D | AD indicator |
| BC or B.C. | BC indicator |
| TZD | Daylight savings information. For example, 'PST' |
| TZH | Time zone hour. |
| TZM | Time zone minute. |
| TZR | Time zone region. |

**nls\_language**

Optional. This is the nls language used to convert string1 to a date.