

Recoding an Existing Variable

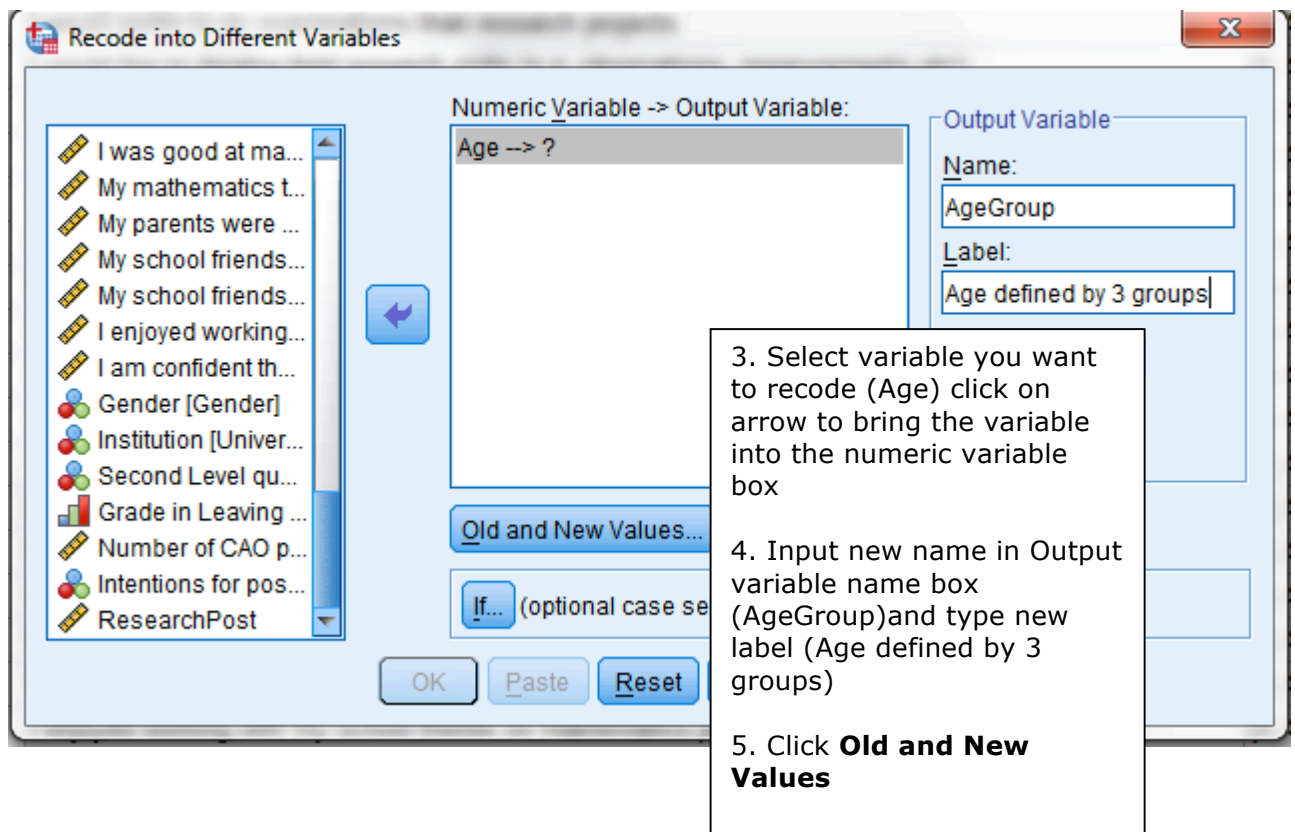
This exercise requires you to transform a continuous variable into a categorical variable so that it is suitable for an ANOVA. In this case, we are recoding the values of Age into three groups (<30yrs, 30-39yrs, 40+yrs) **Always recode into a new variable, leaving the original variable unchanged.** This means that if you make a mistake in your recoding procedure you can always revert to the original. In this case, we will recode the variable Age into AgeGroup. The existing variable Age is a continuous variable with a minimum value of 19 and a maximum value of 45.

We want to recode the data into three categories:

- 1 =<30yrs
- 2 = 30-39yrs
- 3 = 40+ years.

To do this:

1. Click on **Transform**
2. Select **Recode into Different Variables**



5. Click on **range**, input 0 in first box, 29 in second box.

6. Type 2 in New Value box

6. Click on **add**, and the new value will appear in Old...>New box. This will assign each age between 0-29 (inclusive) a code of 1.

5. Follow these steps to recode the old age values of 30 – 39 into new value 2 = 30-39yrs, and click on **add**.

6. To recode age values 40+ into category 3 (40+yrs), select **all other values** at the end of the list on the left hand side, and type 3 into the box. Click on **add**. This will assign all of the remaining values to category 3.

7. Click on Continue

8. Click on Change (right side of Recode into Different Variables box),

9. Click OK.

10. Go to **Variable View**. Type in Values for the new variable: 1 = <30yrs; 2 = 30-39yrs; 3 = 40+yrs.