

~~Def/operation~~

## SQL Functions



### Function

\* A built in SQL code

- accepts an input value.
- process it.
- Returns an output value.

Input/Value → [fn] → output/values

### 1) Single Row function

'MARIA' → LOWER() → 'maria'

### 2) Multi-Row Function

30 →  
10 → SUM() → 60  
20 →

\* NESTED Function: Function used inside another fn.

'Maria' → LEFT(2) → 'Ma' → LOWER() → 'ma'

input (1) output (2) output

(3)  
LEN(LOWER(LEFT('Maria', 2)))

(1)

(2)

Row-level calculation.

SQL-function

Aggregation.

Single-Row Function.

Multi-Row Function.

String Functions

Numeric Functions

Aggregate Functions (basic)

Window Function (advanced)

Date & Time Function

NULL Functions

- SQL STRING FUNCTIONS



- Replace: Replace specific characters with new characters.

123-456-7890 → Replace → 123|456|7890  
 old value = '-'  
 new value = '|'

Ex: Remove dashes (-) from numbers.

SELECT

'123-456-7890' AS phone

REPLACE('123-456-7890', '-', '|') AS clean-phone.

## \* CALCULATION

- LEN: Count how many characters.

Maria → LEN() → 5

Ex: calculate len of first\_name

SELECT  
 first\_name,  
 LEN(first\_name)  
 FROM customers.

## \* STRING EXTRACTION

- LEFT: Extract specific No. of characters from start.
- RIGHT: Extract specific No. of characters from end.

LEFT(Value, characters)

LEFT(Maria, 2)

Ma

RIGHT(Value, chara.)

RIGHT(Maria, 2)

ia

Maria

Ex: Retrieve first and last two characters of first\_name.

SELECT  
 first\_name,  
 LEFT(first\_name, 2) AS ~~len~~ start  
 RIGHT(first\_name, 2) AS end  
 FROM customers.

- Substring: Extract a part of string at a specified position.

SUBSTRING(Value, start, length)

Maria

start  
 3

length

len() → 3

Martin

3

len() → 3

Ex:- First names after removing first character.

```
SELECT  
    first_name,  
    SUBSTR(Trim(first_name), 2, LEN(first_name))  
    AS sub_name  
FROM customers.
```

### \* Number functions

3.516 → ROUND 2 → 3.52 Roundup ↑  
10  
6  
5  
0

                    → ROUND 1 → 3.500  
                                    Nothing

                    → ROUND 0 → 4.000 10  
0.5 ↑

Roundup ↑

- **ABS** : Return absolute (positive) value of a number, remove any negative sign.

```
SELECT  
    -19,  
    ABS(-19).
```

### DATE & TIME

<u>Date</u>			<u>Min</u>		
2025-08-20			18:55:45		
			<u>hour</u> <u>sec</u>		
year	mon	day			

-----

Timestamp /  
Date & Time

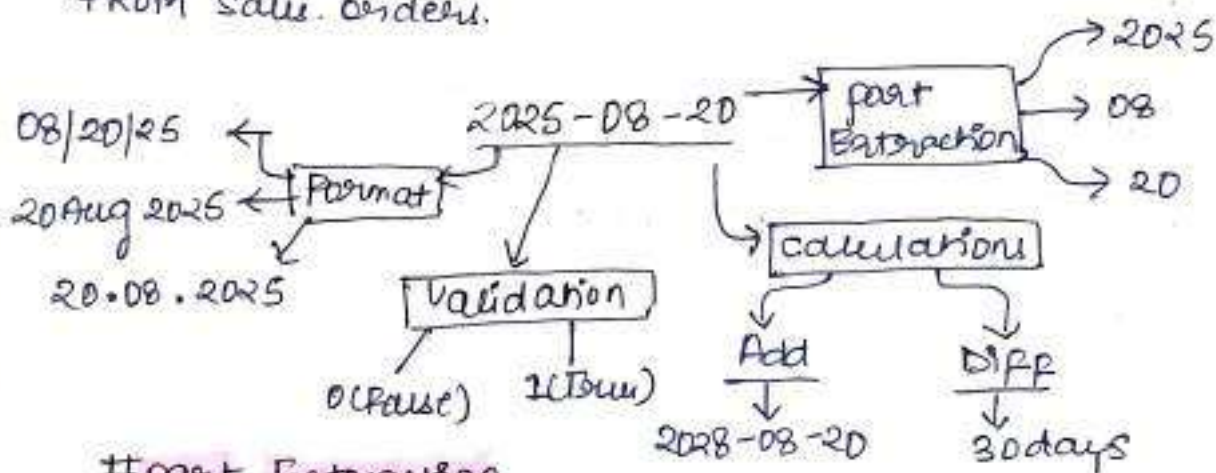
## \*DATE & TIME

### • VALUES

- 1) Date Column From a Table.
- 2) Hardcoded constant string value.
- 3) GETDATE() Function.

↳ Return the current date and time at the moment when the Query is executed.

```
SELECT  
    creationTime, —————> column  
    '2025-08-20' Hardcoded, —————> Hardcoded string.  
    GETDATE() Today —————> function.  
FROM sales.orders.
```



### # part Extraction.

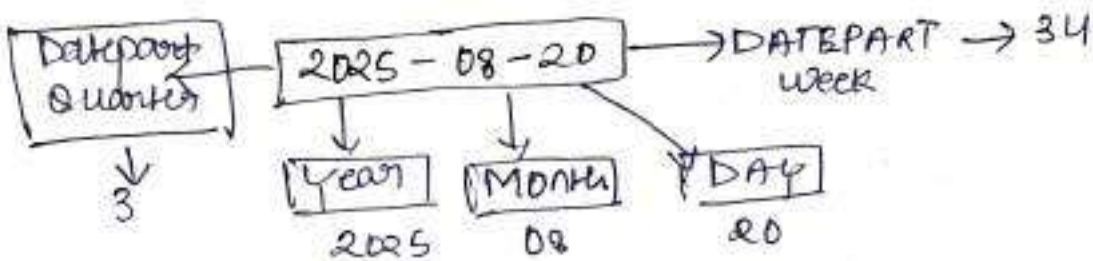
- Day | Month | Year.

Day() Return the day from date.  
Month() Return the Month.  
Year() Return year()

```
SELECT  
    creationTime, part part,  
    YEAR(creationTime),  
    DAY(creationTime),  
    MONTH(creationTime)  
FROM sales.orders.
```



- Datepart() : Return a specific part of date as a Number.



## Syntax.

### Examples

DATE PART (part, date)

• DATEPART(MONTH, OrdenDate)  
                  ↓  
                  (mm)

\*DATEPART(weekday, date)

- DATEPART (Year, c, year, on Time)

- DATEPART() : Return a sp name of a specific part of a date.

DATENAME(weekday) = wednes day.

2025-08-20 → DATENAME → August  
MONTH

## Syntax

DATE#NAME(part, DATE)

DATENAME Type is string.

- **DATETRUNC()** : Truncates the date to specific part.

Syntax: DATE\_TRUNC(%part, date)

~~DATE~~ DATE\_TRUNC  
Year

keep	Reset				
year	mm	sec	hour	mm	sec
2025-01-01			00%	00%	00

Datepart resets to 1 | Timepart starts to 00

```
SELECT
DATE_TRUNC(month, creationTime) AS date,
COUNT(*)
GROUP BY DATE_TRUNC(month, creationTime).
```

To analyse the order

- EDMONTH() : Returns the last day of Month.

2025 - <sup>mm</sup>08 - <sup>sec</sup>(20) → (31) → End of Month.

Syntax.

```
SELECT
EDMONTH(date)
FROM sales.orders
```

- Part Extraction use case.

Data Aggregations

- How many order were placed each year?

<p>Q1. SELECT YEAR(orderdate), COUNT(*) FROM sales.orders GROUP BY YEAR(orderdate)</p>	<p>SELECT DATENAME(orderdate), COUNT(*) FROM sales.orders GROUP BY DATENAME(orderdate)</p>
--	--

- Data filtering

- Show all order were placed during Feb Month.

```
SELECT *
FROM sales.orders
WHERE MONTH(orderdate) = 2
```

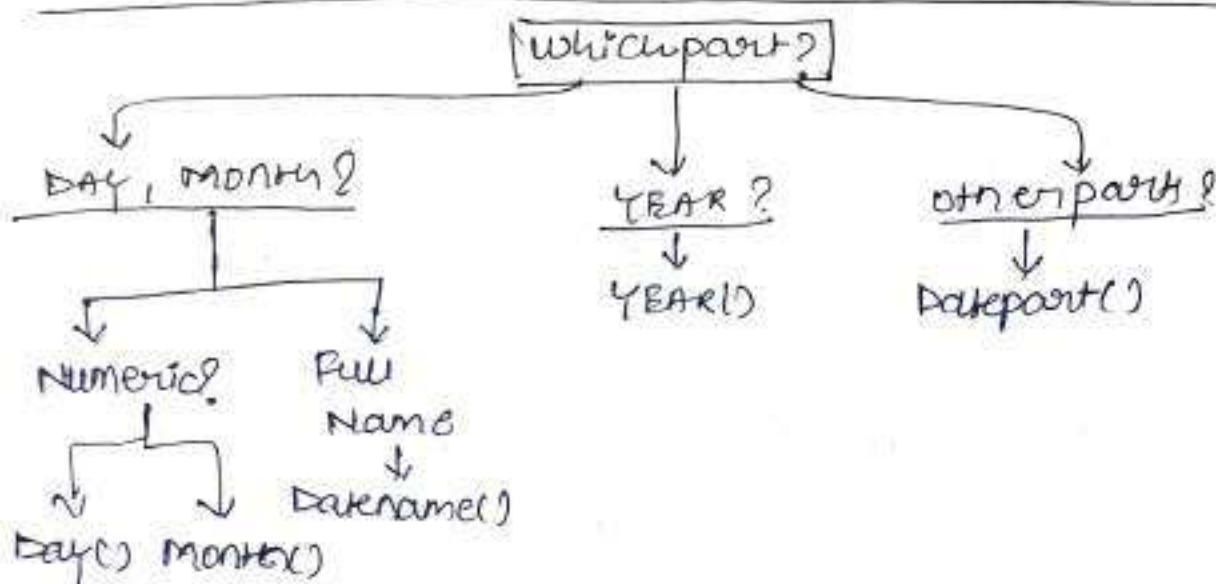
## • Functions comparison

Day Month Year Datepart → INT

DateName → String

Date Time → DateTime

EOMonth → Date



## FORMAT, CONVERT, CAST

### DATE TIME

Month

Day

Second

Year  
2025-08-20

Hour Minute Second  
18:55:45

YYYY-MM-DD

HH:mm:ss

Format Specifier

Date & Time format



2025-08-20 } International Standard (ISO 8601)  
YYYY-MM-dd } SQL Server

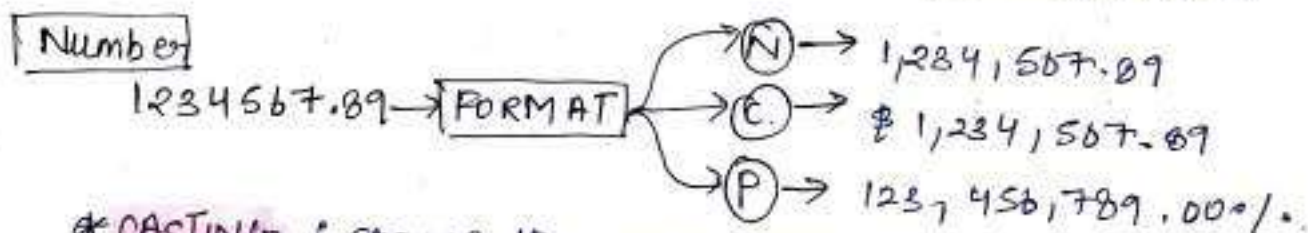
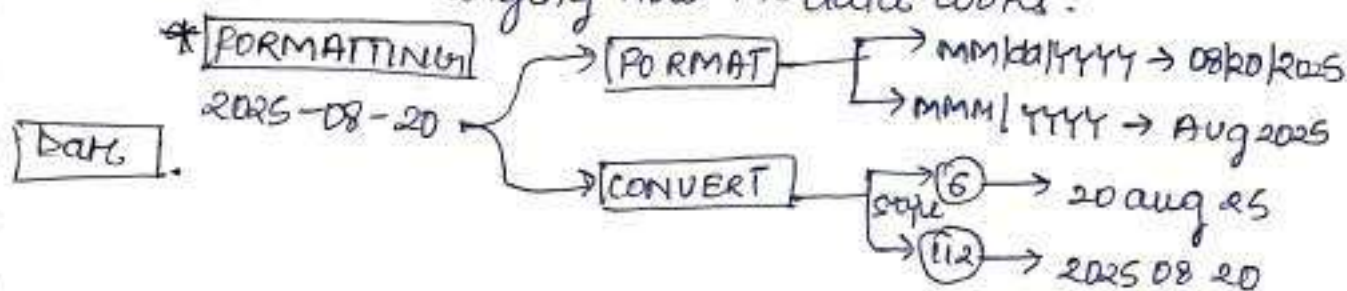
08-20-2025 } USA standard  
MM-dd-YYYY

20-08-2025 } European standard  
dd-MM-YYYY

## \* what are formatting & casting

← changing the format of a value from one to another.

• changing how the data looks.



\* CASTING: change the data type from one to another.

CAST()

CONVERT()

String '123' → 123 Number

Date 2025-08-20 → '2025-08-20' String.

## \* FORMAT()

Format the Date and Time value.

Syntax: `FORMAT(value, format [, culture])`  
↳ optional

Ex. `FORMAT(OrderDate, 'dd/MM/yyyy')` — use

`FORMAT(OrderDate, 'dd/MM/yyyy', 'ja-JP')`

`FORMAT(1234.56, 'D', 'fr-FR')`  
↳ optional

Ex `SELECT`  
    OrderID,  
    CreationTime,  
    FORMAT(CreationTime, 'dd',) dd  
FROM Sales.orders.

'ddd' → Full Name, 'MMMM' → Full Name.

Show DAY wed Jan 01 2025 12:34:56 PM

`SELECT`  
    OrderID,  
    CreationTime,  
    'DAY ' + FORMAT(CreationTime, 'ddd MMM') +  
    ' @ ' + DATENAME(QUARTER, CreationTime) + ' ' +  
    FORMAT(CreationTime, 'yyyy hh:mm:ss tt') AS  
    CustomFormat.  
FROM Sales.orders.

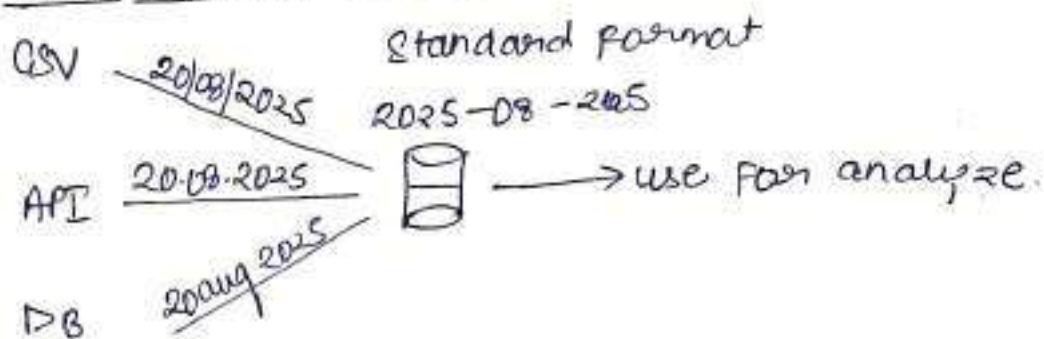
• Formatting use case

Data aggregations.

`SELECT`  
    FORMAT(CreationTime, 'MMM yy') OrderDate  
    COUNT(\*)  
FROM Sales.orders  
GROUP BY FORMAT(CreationTime, 'MMM yy')



## • Data Standardization



## • All formats.

- CONVERT() converts a date or time value to a different data type. & it helps format the value.

Syntax CONVERT(data-type, value [, style])  
Optional.

Ex CONVERT(INT, '123')

CONVERT(CARCHAR, orderdate, '134')

Default style = 0.

Ex

```
SELECT  
CONVERT(INT, '123')  
CONVERT(DATE, '2025-08-20')  
CONVERT(DATE, creationTime)  
FROM Sales.Orders.
```

## • CAST():

Converts a value to specified data-type.

Syntax CAST(value AS data-type)

Ex: CAST('123' AS INT)

CAST('2025-08-20' AS DATE).

Not format specified.



3

SELECT

CAST(1123) AS INT)

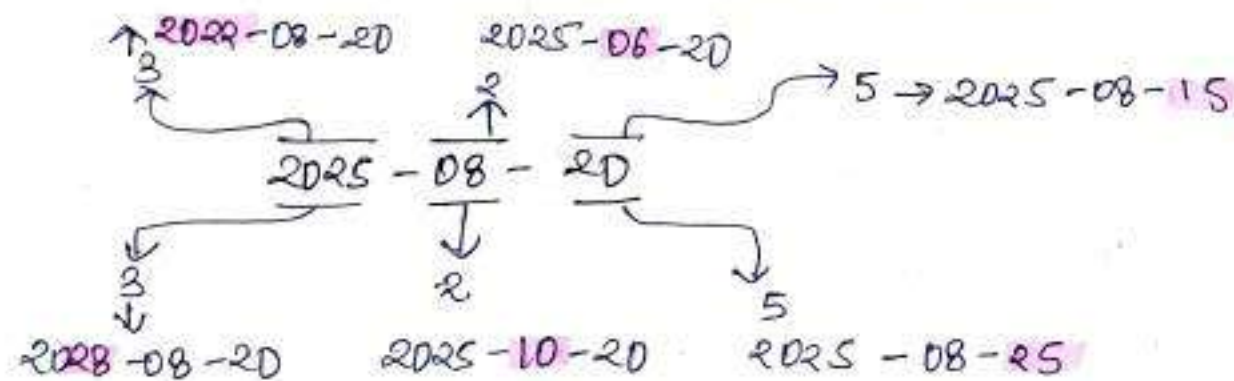
CAST('2025-06-20' AS DATE)

CAST('2025-06-20' AS DATETIME)

CASTING	FORMATTING
CAST any type to any type	NO formatting
CONVERT any type to any type	format only date & time
FORMAT any type to only string	format date & time Numbers

DATE CALCULATIONS

- DATEADD() : Add or subtract a specific time interval to/from a date.

Syntax.

DATEADD(part, interval, date)

DATEADD(Year, 2, orderDate)

DATEADD(Month, -4, orderDate)

B2

- Add 3 Month and 2 year

```
SELECT
    OrderID,
    OrderDate,
    DATEADD(Month, 3, OrderDate),
    DATEADD(YEAR, 2, OrderDate)
FROM Sales.Orders
```

Lag():

access a value from previous row.

- DATE DIFF(): Find difference b/w two dates.  
(Start date - End date)

Syntax: DATEDIFF(part, start\_date, End\_date)

Ex: DATEDIFF(YEAR, OrderDate, ShipDate)

DAY

Month

- Calculate age from current

```
SELECT
    EmployeeID,
    BirthDate,
```

```
DATEDIFF(YEAR, BirthDate,
    GETDATE())
```

FROM Sales.Employees.

- average shipping duration in days for each Month.

```
SELECT
    Month(OrderDate) AS OrderDate,
    AVG(DATEDIFF(DAY, OrderDate, ShipDate)) avg
FROM Sales.Orders
GROUP BY MONTH(OrderDate).
```

- Find no. of day b/w each order date and previous.

```
SELECT
    OrderID,
    OrderDate current,
    Lag(OrderDate) OVER(ORDER BY OrderDate) prev.
```

```
DATEDIFF(DAY, Lag(OrderDate) OVER(ORDER BY OrderDate),
    OrderDate) No of days.
```

```
FROM Sales.Orders
```



- ISDATE(): check if a value is a date.  
Returns 1 if the string value is a valid date.

Syntax ISDATE(value)

ISDATE('2025-08-20')

ISDATE(2025)

SELECT

ISDATE('1:23') check 1

ISDATE('2025-20-08') check 2.

---

SELECT

-- CAST(OrderDate AS DATE) OrderDate,  
OrderDate,

ISDATE(OrderDate),

CASE WHEN ISDATE(OrderDate) = 1 THEN

CAST(OrderDate AS DATE)

ELSE '9999-01-01'

END NewOrderDate

FROM

C  
SELECT '2025-08-20' AS OrderDate UNION

SELECT '2025-08-21' ~~AS~~ UNION

SELECT '2025-08-23' ~~AS~~ UNION

SELECT '2025-08'

) +

-- WHERE ISDATE(OrderDate) = 0



## NULLS

- NULL means nothing, unknown!
- NULL is not equal to anything.
  - NULL is not zero - NULL is not empty string
  - NULL is not blank space.

• I don't know what this value is this.

Q How handle null inside our data?

Replace value.  $\boxed{NULL} \xrightarrow[\text{COALESCE}]{\text{IS NULL}} \boxed{40} \quad \boxed{40} \xrightarrow{\text{NULLIF}} \boxed{NULL}$

check whether we have null or not.



### # NULL Function

\* ISNULL : Replaces NULL with a specified value.

Syntax.

ISNULL(value, replacement\_value)

Ex: ISNULL(shipping-add, 'unknown') always not unknown we also another column for help of value  
ISNULL(shipping-add, billing-add) ←

\* COALESCE : Return the first non-null value from list.

Syntax: COALESCE(value1, value2, value3, ---)

Ex: COALESCE(shipping-add, 'unknown')

Ex: COALESCE(shipping-add, billing-add)

Ex: COALESCE(shipping-add, billing-add, 'unknown')

## ISNULL VS COALESCE

### ISNULL

- limited to two values.
- Fast

SQL Server → ISNULL

Oracle → NVL

MySQL → IFNULL

### COALESCE

- unlimited.
- Slow
- Available in all databases

## use case - Handling values.

### \* Data aggregation.

- Handle NULL before doing data aggregations.

SELECT  
customerid,  
score,



This handle null values.

it return avg via handle null values.

COALESCE(score, 0) AS score2  
AVG(score) OVER() AS avg\_score1  
AVG(COALESCE(score, 0)) OVER() AS avg\_score2  
FROM sales.customers.

### \* Mathematical operation

- Handle NULL before doing any mathematical operation.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Null} + 5 \rightarrow \text{Null} \\ 5 + 1 \rightarrow 6 \\ \text{"A"} + \text{"B"} \rightarrow \text{"AB"} \end{array} \right]$$

If we do maths operation with NULL  
the answer is always NULL.

SELECT  
customerid,  
firstname,  
secondname,  
firstname + ' ' + COALESCE(lastname, '') AS Fullname,  
score,  
COALESCE(score, 0) + 10 AS BonusScore  
FROM sales.customers.



## \* Handle NULL before joining Tables

```
SELECT  
  a.year, a.type, a.orders, b.sales  
FROM Table1 a  
JOIN Table2 b  
ON a.year = b.year  
AND ISNULL(a.type, '') = ISNULL(b.type, '')
```

↓ Remove NULL to do join the Tables

## \* Handle Null

SELECT \* Sorting Data

customer ID,  
score,

1 CASE WHEN score IS NULL THEN 1 ELSE 0 END  
FROM sales.customer

• Sort customer from lowest to highest with  
nulls appearing last.

order by 1, score

• First non-null score in ascending order, then  
Null is last.

• If non-null same then use score and sort  
them.

## \* NULL FUNCTION - NULLIF

Compare two expressions returns:

- NULL, if they are equal.

- First value, if they are not equal.

Syntax

NULLIF (value1, value2)

Ex: NULLIF (Ship-add, 'unknown')

Ex: NULLIF (Ship-add, Bill-add)



## • NULLIF use case

- Division by zero : preventing error of dividing by zero.

```
SELECT  
orderID,  
Sales,  
Quantity,  
Sales / NULLIF (Quantity, 0) AS price  
FROM Sales.orders
```

↓  
prevent error if  
any zero in column.

## • IS NULL / IS NOT NULL

Return True if value is NULL otherwise false.

Return True if value is not null otherwise false.

Syntax : value IS NULL    value IS NOT NULL

Ex Shipping-add IS NULL

Shipping-add IS NOT NULL

## • IS NULL - use case

- Filtering data : searching for missing information.

```
SELECT  
customerID,  
score  
FROM Sales.customers  
WHERE score IS NULL  
WHERE score IS NOT NULL
```

## • IS NULL - use case

- ANTI JOIN : Finding ~~un~~ unmatched rows between two columns.

```

SELECT
  C.*,
  O.order_id,
FROM sales.customers C
LEFT JOIN sales.orders O
ON C.customer_id = O.customer_id
WHERE O.customer_id IS NULL

```

NULL VS Empty STRING VS BLANK space

Means nothing, unknown!

" → String value has zero characters.

BLANK SPACE (' ') : String value has one or more space characters.

	NULL	Empty string	Blank space
Representation.	NULL	"	' '
Meaning	unknown	known, Empty value	known, Space value
Datatype	special marker	string(0)	string (can more)
Storage	very minimal	occupies memory	occupies memory
performance	best	Fast	slow
Comparison.	IS NULL	= ""	= ' '

### • Handling NULL.

Data policies : Set of rules that defines how data should be handled.

- 1) Only use NULL and empty spaces instead but avoid blank spaces.
- 2) Only use NULL and avoid Empty strings and blank spaces.

→ Use NVL2 to do NULL values.  
→ Use TRIM to remove spaces.

3) use default values (unknown) and avoid using nulls, empty strings, and blank spaces.

#2 Data policy Replace empty and blank space with null during data preparation before inserting into a database to optimize storage and performance.

#3 Data policy: Replace empty and blank and Null with default value during data preparation before using it for reporting. Improve readability and reduce confusion.