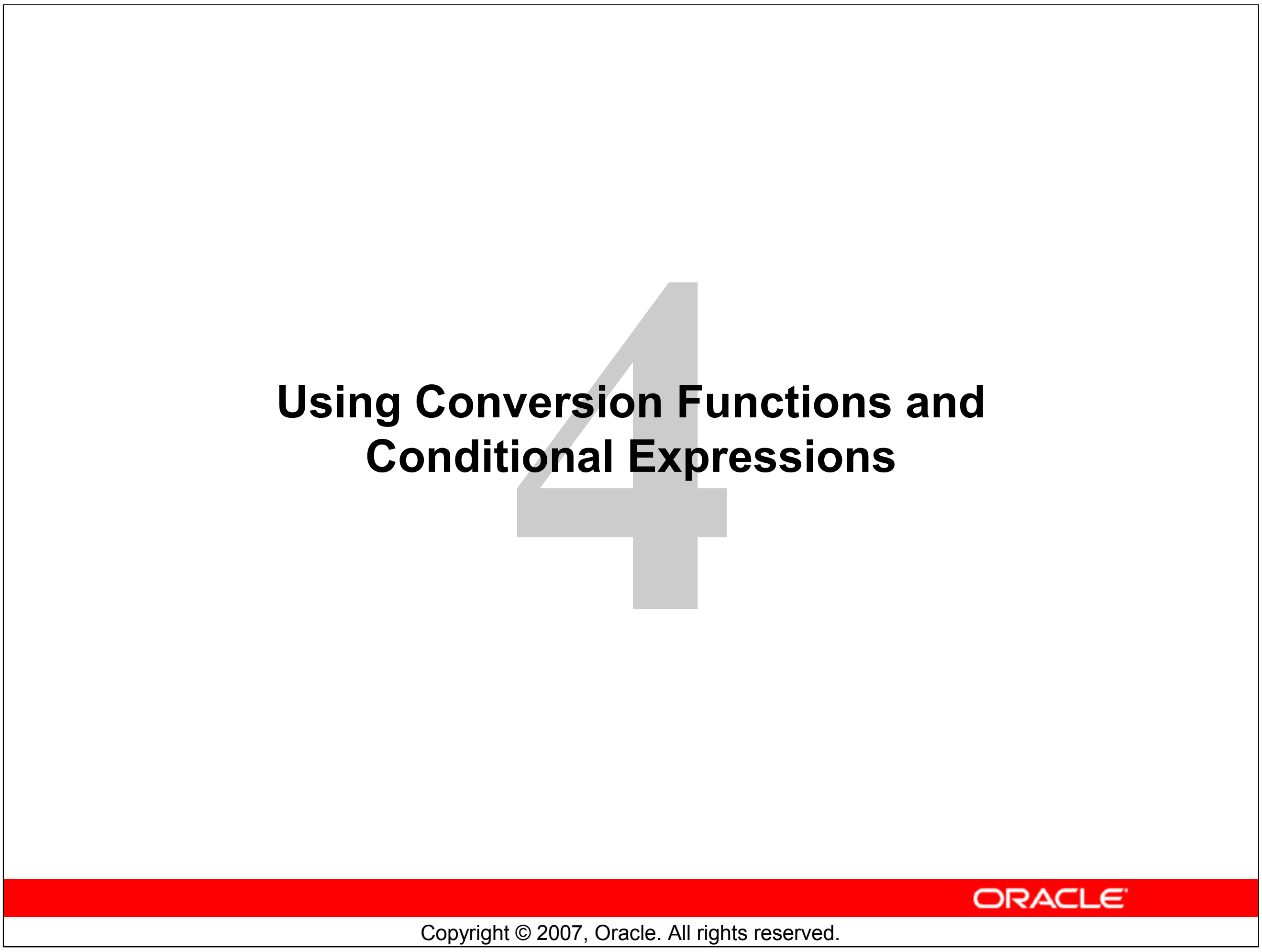
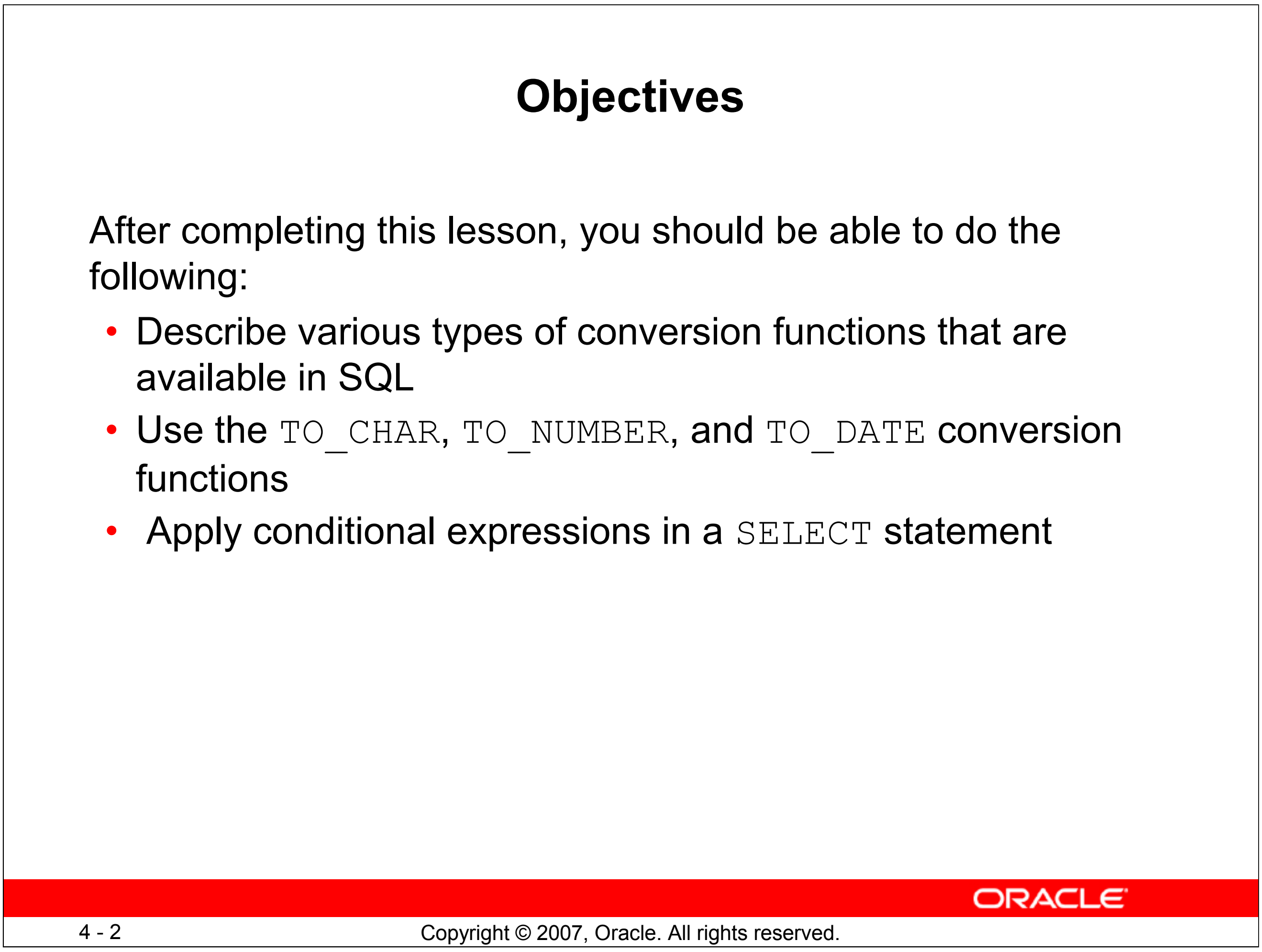


4

Using Conversion Functions and Conditional Expressions



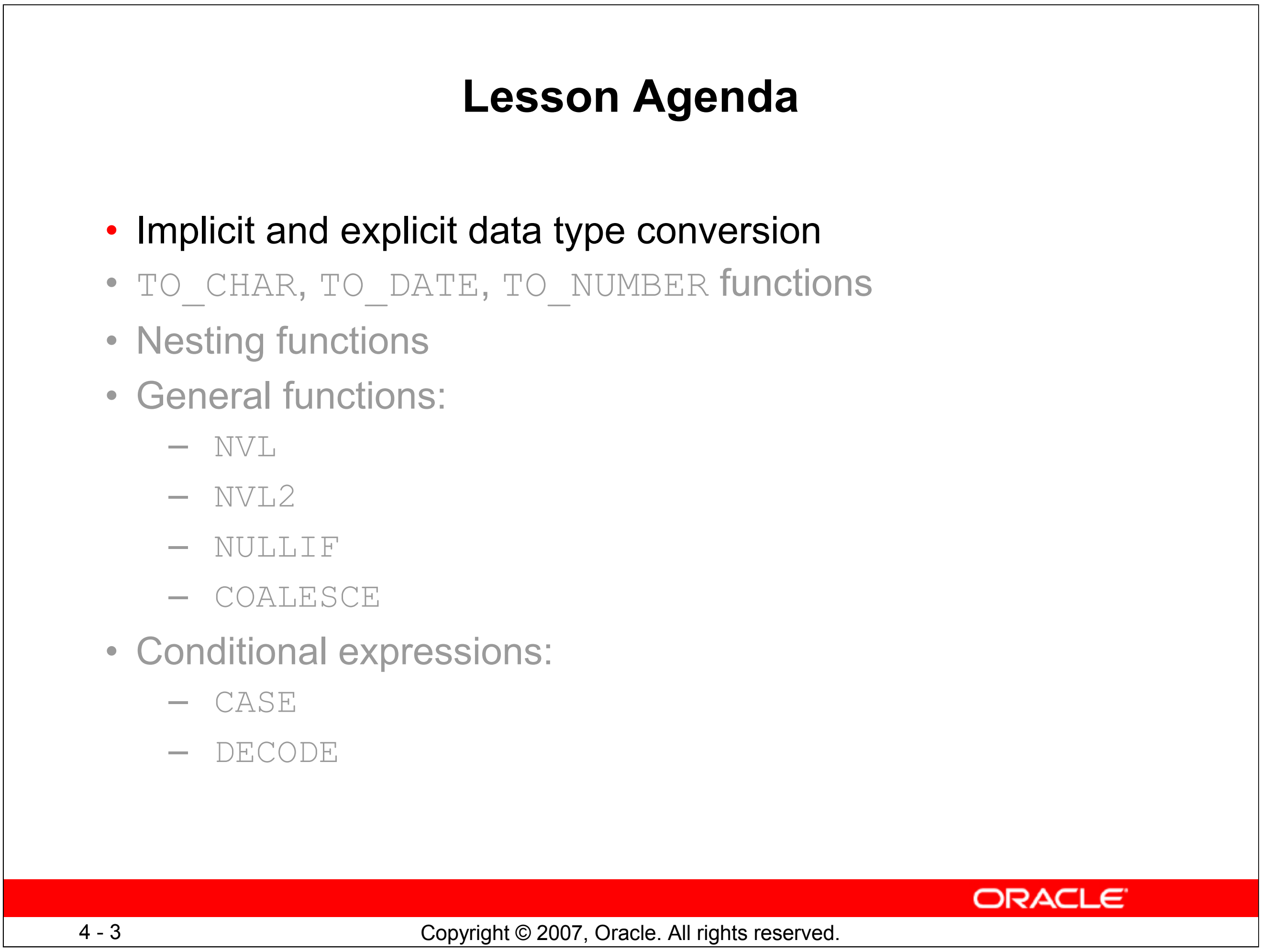
Objectives

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

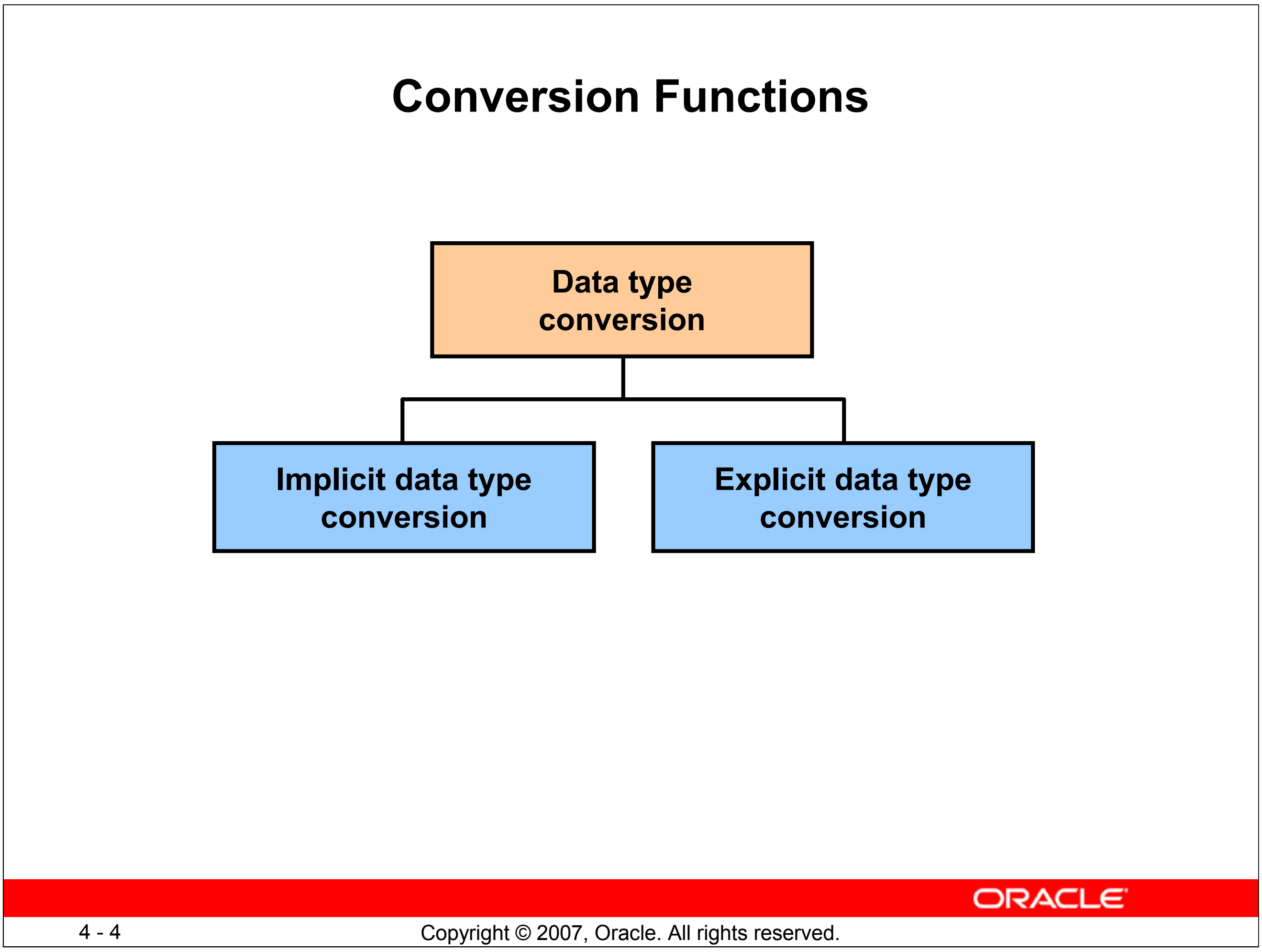
Objectives

This lesson focuses on functions that convert data from one type to another (for example, conversion from character data to numeric data) and discusses the conditional expressions in SQL `SELECT` statements.



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

Data type conversion

Implicit data type conversion

Explicit data type conversion

Conversion Functions

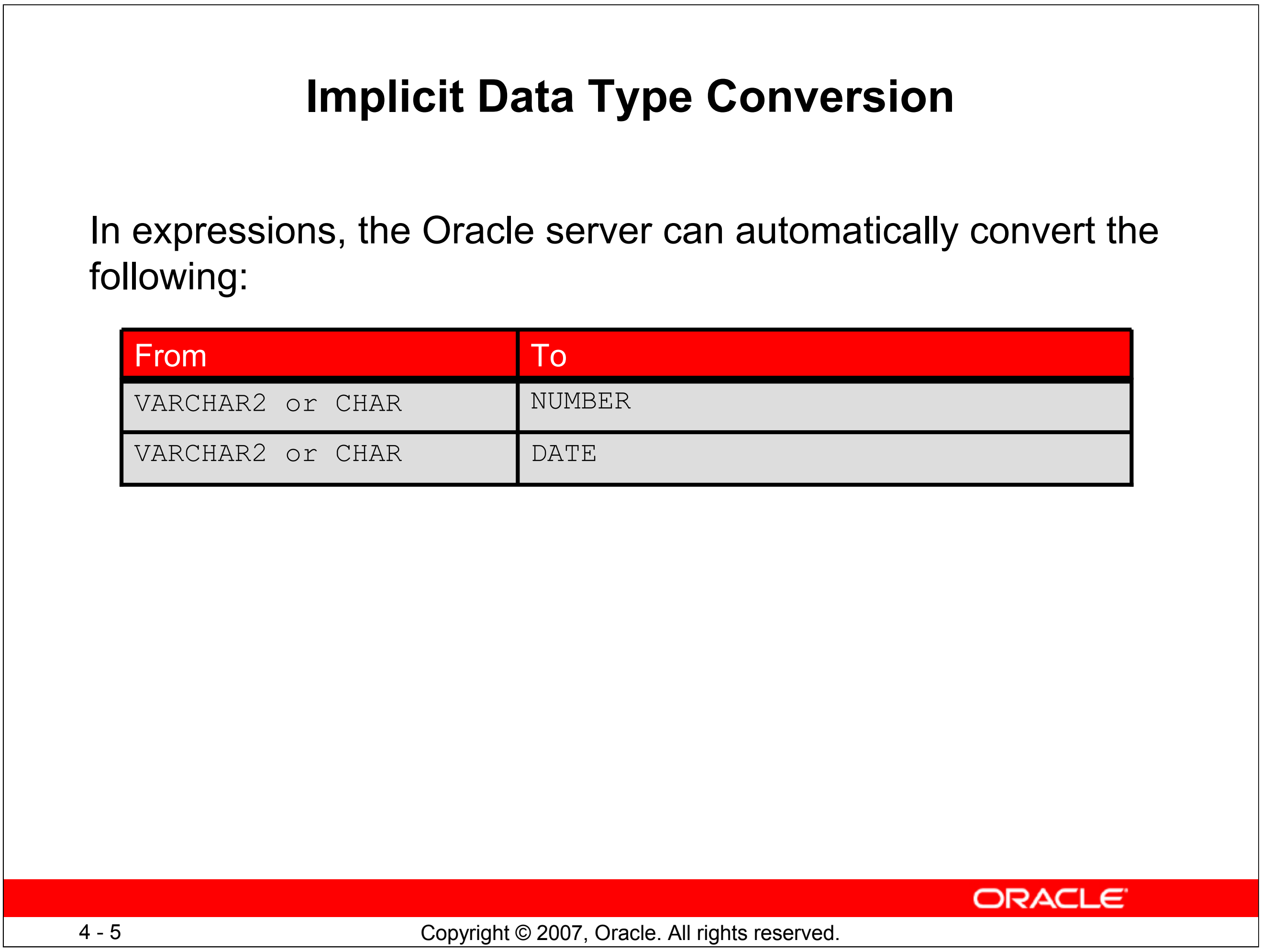
In addition to Oracle data types, columns of tables in an Oracle database can be defined by using the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), DB2, and SQL/DS data types. However, the Oracle server internally converts such data types to Oracle data types.

In some cases, the Oracle server receives data of one data type where it expects data of a different data type. When this happens, the Oracle server can automatically convert the data to the expected data type. This data type conversion can be done *implicitly* by the Oracle server or *explicitly* by the user.

Implicit data type conversions work according to the rules explained in the next two slides.

Explicit data type conversions are done by using the conversion functions. Conversion functions convert a value from one data type to another. Generally, the form of the function names follows the convention `data type TO data type`. The first data type is the input data type and the second data type is the output.

Note: Although implicit data type conversion is available, it is recommended that you do the explicit data type conversion to ensure the reliability of your SQL statements.



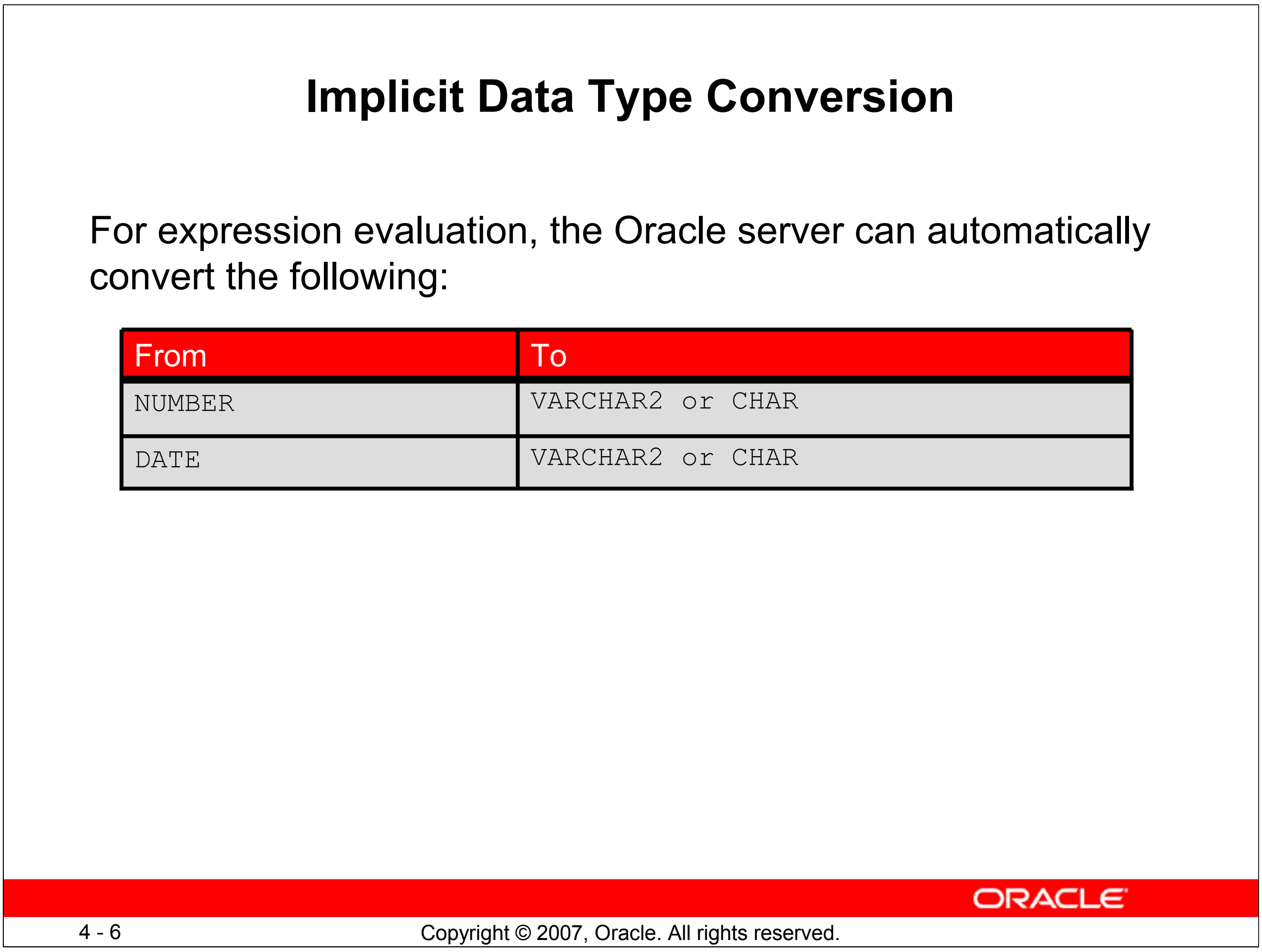
Implicit Data Type Conversion

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

From	To
`VARCHAR2 or CHAR`	`NUMBER`
`VARCHAR2 or CHAR`	`DATE`

Implicit Data Type Conversion

Oracle server can automatically perform data type conversion in an expression. For example, the expression `hire_date > '01-JAN-90'` results in the implicit conversion from the string `'01-JAN-90'` to a date. Therefore, a `VARCHAR2` or `CHAR` value can be implicitly converted to a number or date data type in an expression.



Implicit Data Type Conversion

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

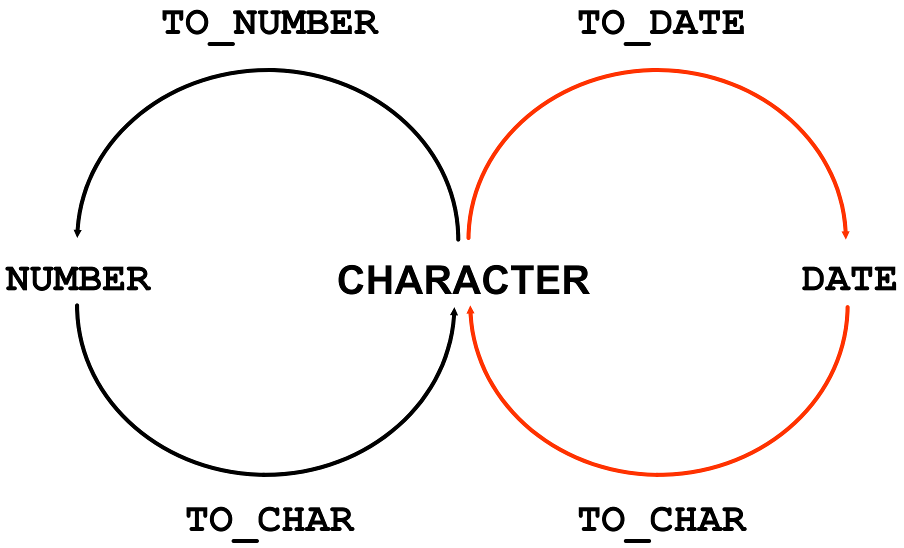
From	To
`NUMBER`	`VARCHAR2 or CHAR`
`DATE`	`VARCHAR2 or CHAR`

Implicit Data Type Conversion (continued)

In general, the Oracle server uses the rule for expressions when a data type conversion is needed. For example, the expression `grade = 2` results in the implicit conversion of the number `20000` to the string “2” because grade is a `CHAR(2)` column.

Note: `CHAR` to `NUMBER` conversions succeed only if the character string represents a valid number.

Explicit Data Type Conversion

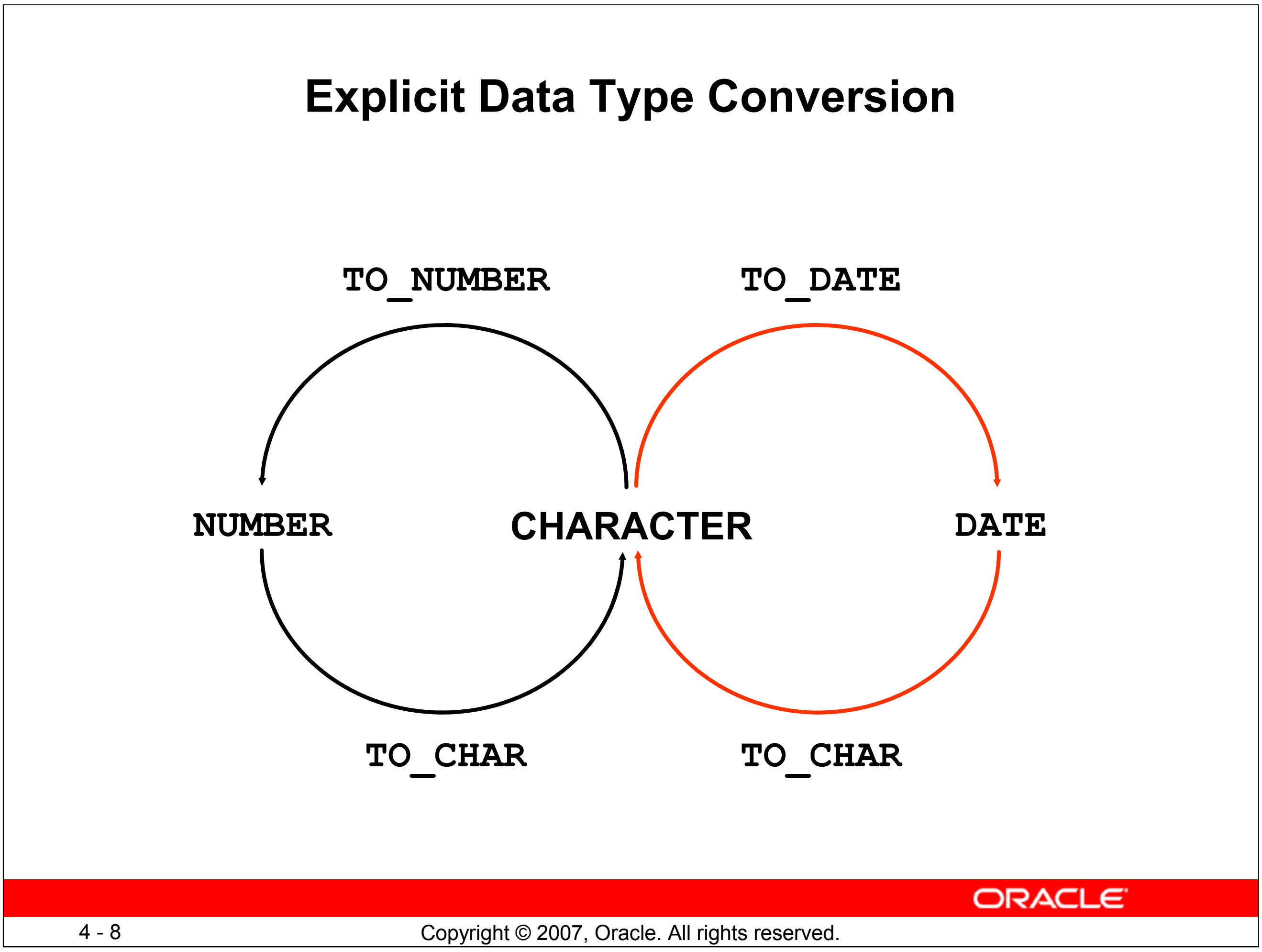


Explicit Data Type Conversion

SQL provides three functions to convert a value from one data type to another:

Function	**Purpose**

`TO_CHAR(`*`number`*`|`*`date`*`,[ `*`fmt`*`],`
`[`*`nlsparams`*`])`
	Converts a number or date value to a `VARCHAR2` character string with the format model *`fmt`*
	Number conversion: The `nlsparams` parameter specifies the following characters, which are returned by number format elements:
	• Decimal character
	• Group separator
	• Local currency symbol
	• International currency symbol
	If `nlsparams` or any other parameter is omitted, this function uses the default parameter values for the session.



Explicit Data Type Conversion

TO_NUMBER

TO_DATE

NUMBER

CHARACTER

DATE

TO_CHAR

TO_CHAR

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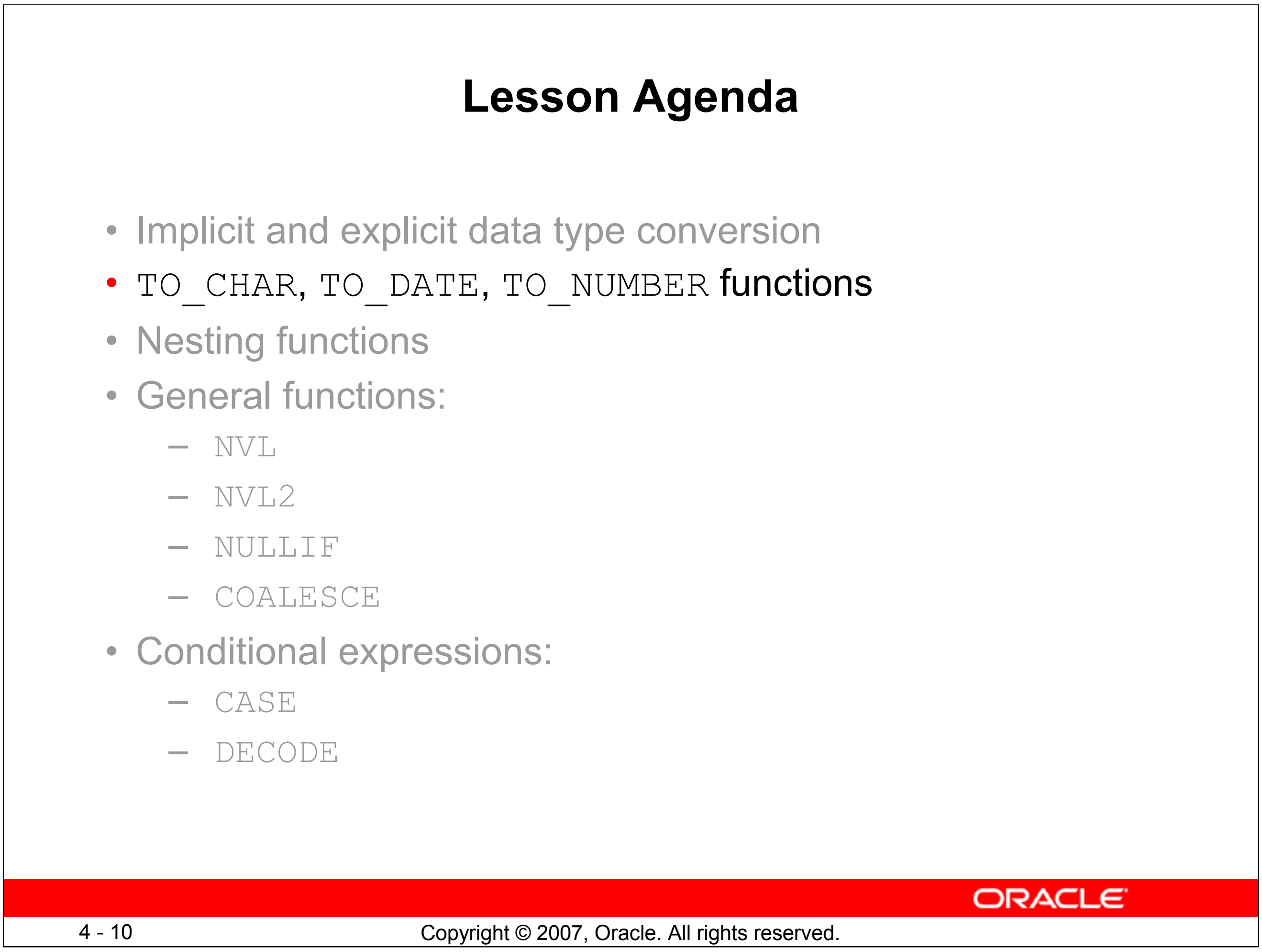
Explicit Data Type Conversion (continued)

Function	**Purpose**
TO_CHAR(*number*|*date*,[*fmt*], [*nlsparams*])	**Date conversion:** The nlsparams parameter specifies the language in which the month and day names, and abbreviations are returned. If this parameter is omitted, this function uses the default date languages for the session.
TO_NUMBER(*char*,*[fmt]*, *[nlsparams]*)	Converts a character string containing digits to a number in the format specified by the optional format model *fmt*. The nlsparams parameter has the same purpose in this function as in the TO_CHAR function for number conversion.
TO_DATE(*char*,[*fmt*],[*nlsparams*])	Converts a character string representing a date to a date value according to the *fmt* that is specified. If *fmt* is omitted, the format is DD-MON-YY. The nlsparams parameter has the same purpose in this function as in the TO_CHAR function for date conversion.

Explicit Data Type Conversion (continued)

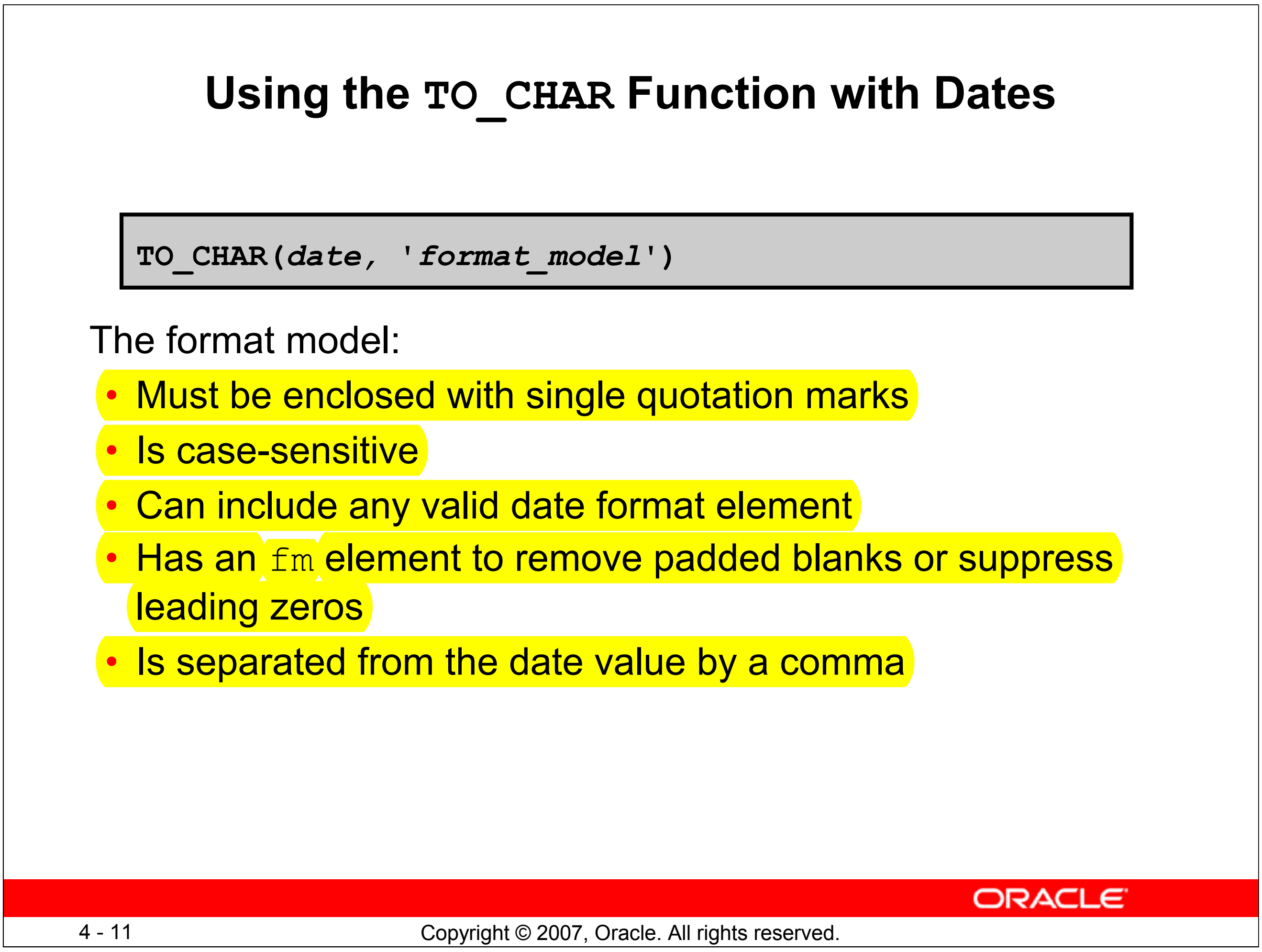
Note: The list of functions mentioned in this lesson includes only some of the available conversion functions.

For more information, see the section on *Conversion Functions* in *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference 11g, Release 1 (11.1)*.



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`



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

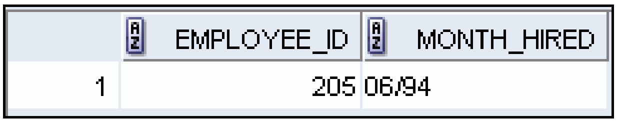
Using the `TO_CHAR` Function with Dates

`TO_CHAR` converts a datetime data type to a value of `VARCHAR2` data type in the format specified by the *format_model*. A format model is a character literal that describes the format of datetime stored in a character string. For example, the datetime format model for the string `'11-Nov-1999'` is `'DD-Mon-YYYY'`. You can use the `TO_CHAR` function to convert a date from its default format to the one that you specify.

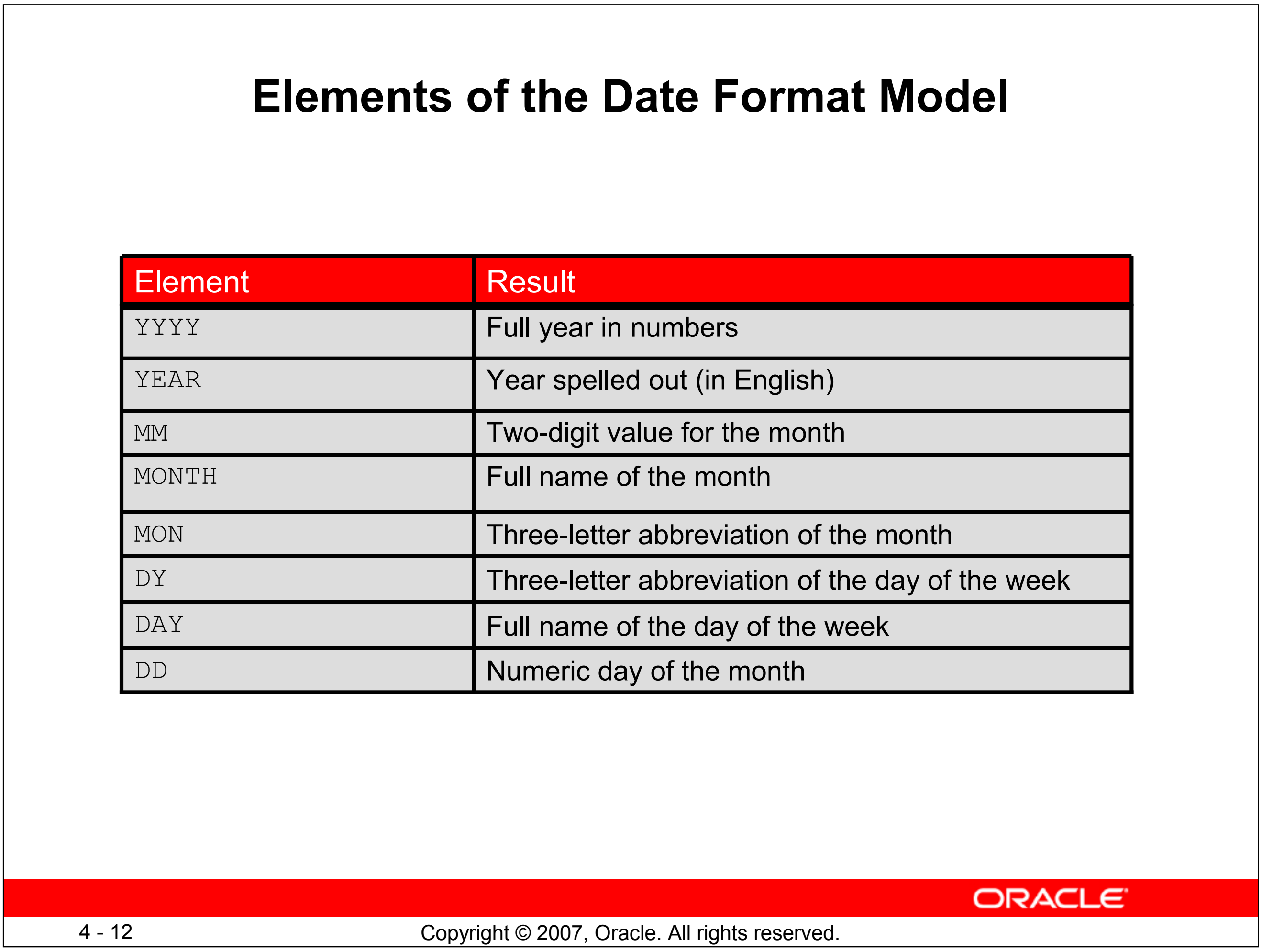
Guidelines

- The format model must be enclosed with single quotation marks and is case-sensitive.
- The format model can include any valid date format element. But be sure to separate the date value from the format model with a comma.
- The names of days and months in the output are automatically padded with blanks.
- To remove padded blanks or to suppress leading zeros, use the fill mode *fm* element.

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



	EMPLOYEE_ID	MONTH_HIRED
1	205	06/94

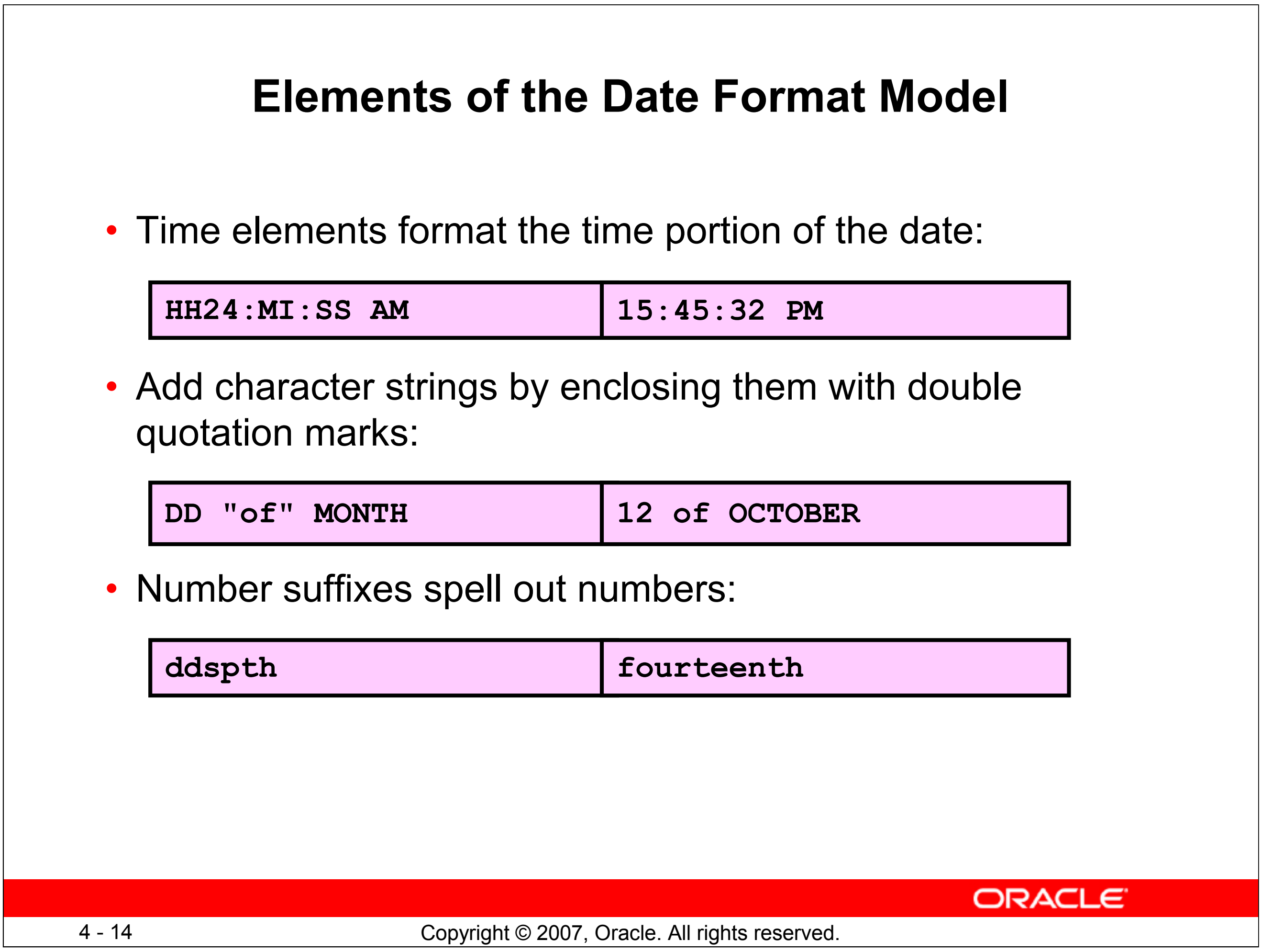


Elements of the Date Format Model

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

Sample Format Elements of Valid Date Formats

Element	Description
SCC or CC	Century; server prefixes B.C. date with -
Years in dates YYYY or SYYYY	Year; server prefixes B.C. date with -
YYY or YY or Y	Last three, two, or one digit of the year
Y,YYY	Year with comma in this position
IYYY, IYY, IY, I	Four-, three-, two-, or one-digit year based on the ISO standard
SYEAR or YEAR	Year spelled out; server prefixes B.C. date with -
BC or AD	Indicates B.C. or A.D. year
B.C. or A.D.	Indicates B.C. or A.D. year using periods
Q	Quarter of year
MM	Month: two-digit value
MONTH	Name of the month padded with blanks to a length of nine characters
MON	Name of the month, three-letter abbreviation
RM	Roman numeral month
WW or W	Week of the year or month
DDD or DD or D	Day of the year, month, or week
DAY	Name of the day padded with blanks to a length of nine characters
DY	Name of the day; three-letter abbreviation
J	Julian day; the number of days since December 31, 4713 B.C.
IW	Weeks in the year from ISO standard (1 to 53)



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`

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Elements of the Date Format Model

Use the formats that are listed in the following tables to display time information and literals, and to change numerals to spelled numbers.

Element	Description
AM or PM	Meridian indicator
A.M. or P.M.	Meridian indicator with periods
HH or HH12 or HH24	Hour of day, or hour (1–12), or hour (0–23)
MI	Minute (0–59)
SS	Second (0–59)
SSSSS	Seconds past midnight (0–86399)

Other Formats

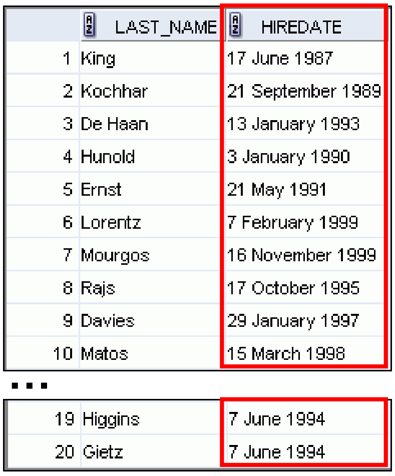
Element	Description
/ . ,	Punctuation is reproduced in the result.
“of the”	Quoted string is reproduced in the result.

Specifying Suffixes to Influence Number Display

Element	Description
TH	Ordinal number (for example, DDTH for 4TH)
SP	Spelled-out number (for example, DDSP for FOUR)
SPTH or THSP	Spelled-out ordinal numbers (for example, DDSPTH for FOURTH)

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

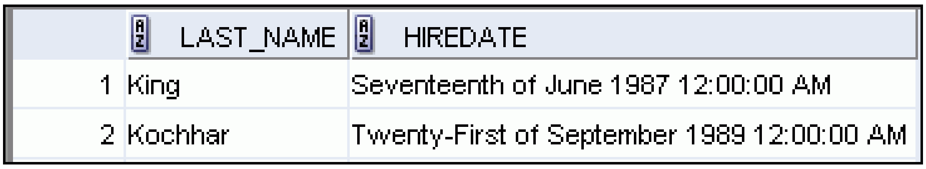
Using the TO_CHAR Function with Dates

The SQL statement in the slide displays the last names and hire dates for all the employees. The hire date appears as 17 June 1987.

Example:

Modify the example in the slide to display the dates in a format that appears as “Seventeenth of June 1987 12:00:00 AM.”

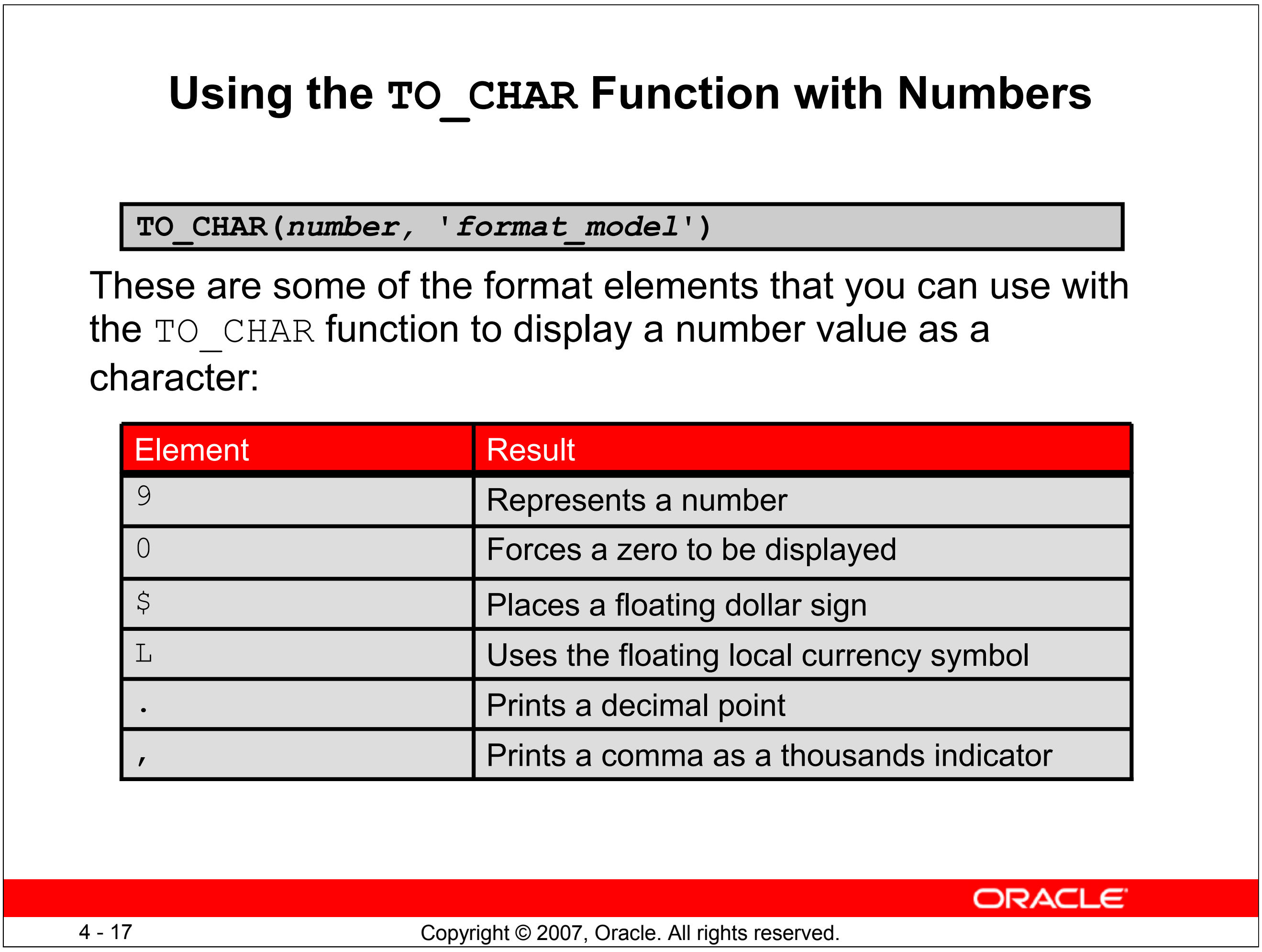
```
SELECT  last_name,
 TO_CHAR(hire_date,
      'fmDdspth "of" Month YYYY fmHH:MI:SS AM')
 HIREDATE
FROM    employees;
```



	LAST_NAME	HIREDATE
1	King	Seventeenth of June 1987 12:00:00 AM
2	Kochhar	Twenty-First of September 1989 12:00:00 AM

...

Notice that the month follows the format model specified; in other words, the first letter is capitalized and the rest are in lowercase.



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

ORACLE

Using the `TO_CHAR` Function with Numbers

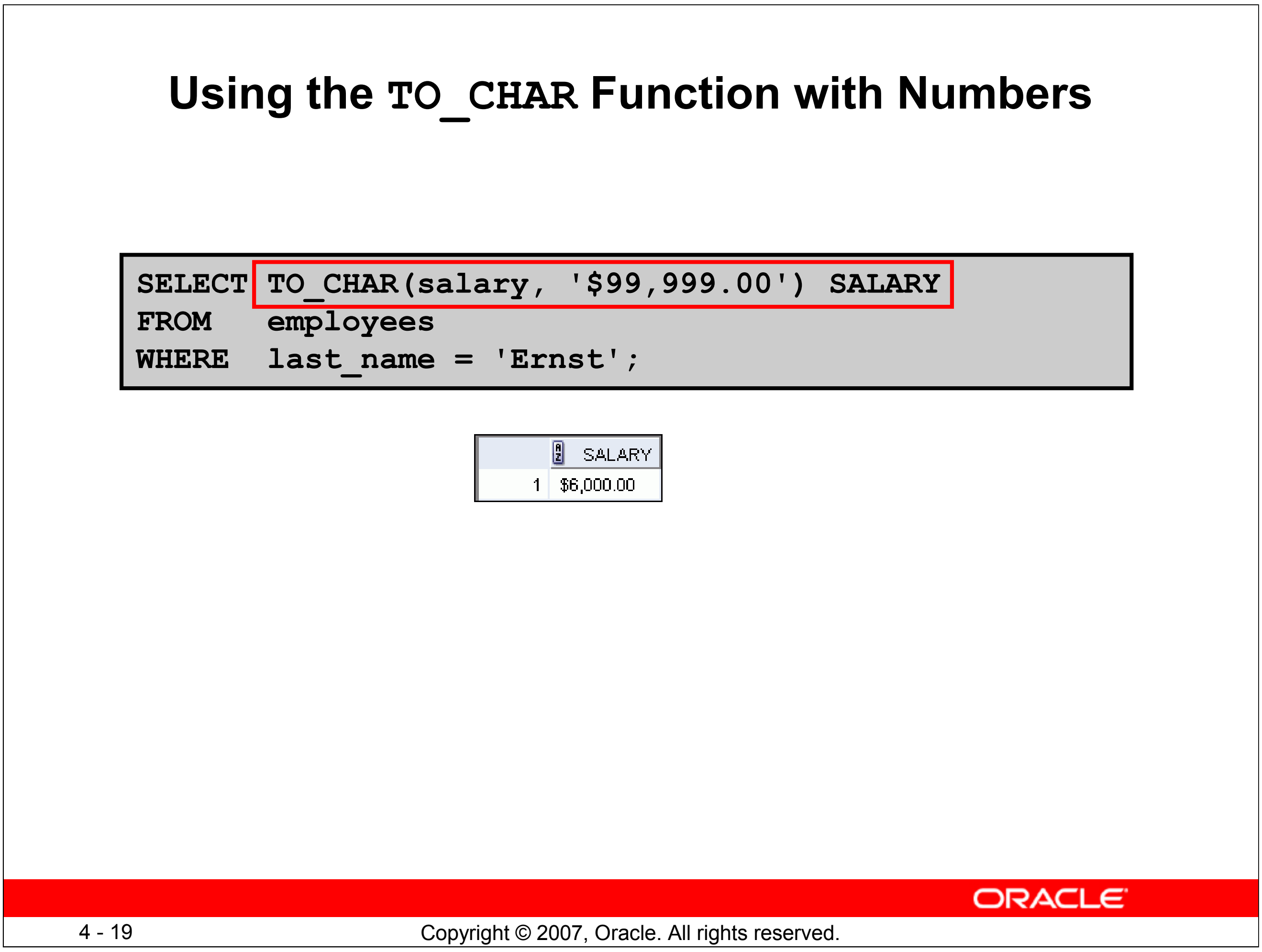
When working with number values, such as character strings, you should convert those numbers to the character data type using the `TO_CHAR` function, which translates a value of `NUMBER` data type to `VARCHAR2` data type. This technique is especially useful with concatenation.

Using the TO_CHAR Function with Numbers (continued)

Number Format Elements

If you are converting a number to the character data type, you can use the following format elements:

Element	Description	Example	Result
9	Numeric position (number of 9s determine display width)	999999	1234
0	Display leading zeros	099999	001234
$	Floating dollar sign	$999999	$1234
L	Floating local currency symbol	L999999	FF1234
D	Returns the decimal character in the specified position. The default is a period (.).	99D99	99.99
.	Decimal point in position specified	999999.99	1234.00
G	Returns the group separator in the specified position. You can specify multiple group separators in a number format model.	9,999	9G999
,	Comma in position specified	999,999	1,234
MI	Minus signs to right (negative values)	999999MI	1234-
PR	Parenthesize negative numbers	999999PR	<1234>
EEEE	Scientific notation (format must specify four Es)	99.999EEEE	1.234E+03
U	Returns in the specified position the "Euro" (or other) dual currency	U9999	€1234
V	Multiply by 10 *n* times (*n* = number of 9s after V)	9999V99	123400
S	Returns the negative or positive value	S9999	-1234 or +1234
B	Display zero values as blank, not 0	B9999.99	1234.00



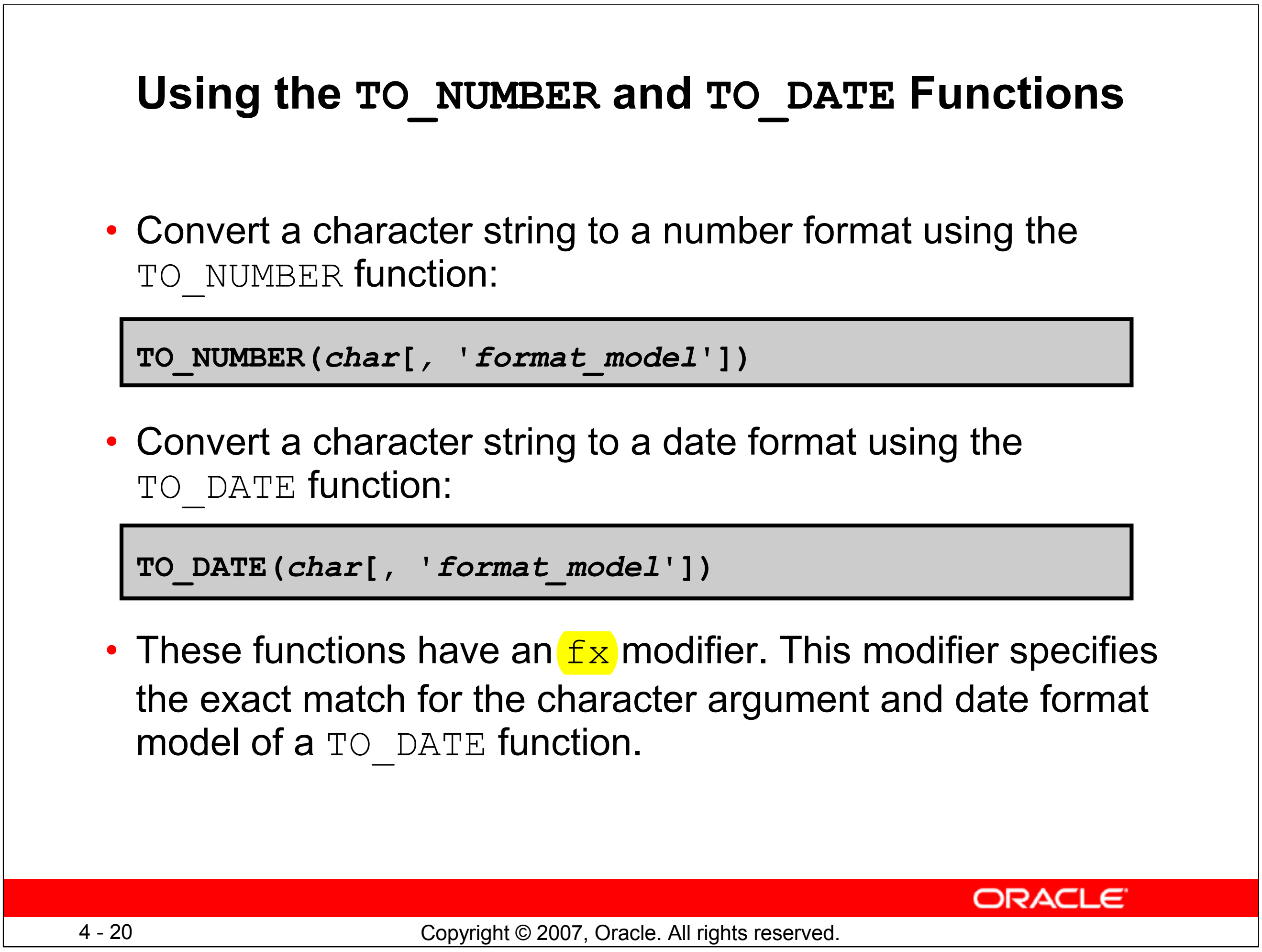
Using the `TO_CHAR` Function with Numbers

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

	SALARY
1	$6,000.00

Using the `TO_CHAR` Function with Numbers (continued)

- The Oracle server displays a string of number signs (#) in place of a whole number whose digits exceed the number of digits provided in the format model.
- The Oracle server rounds the stored decimal value to the number of decimal places provided in the format model.



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.

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Using the TO_NUMBER and TO_DATE Functions

You may want to convert a character string to either a number or a date. To accomplish this task, use the `TO_NUMBER` or `TO_DATE` functions. The format model that you select is based on the previously demonstrated format elements.

The `fx` modifier specifies the exact match for the character argument and date format model of a `TO_DATE` function:

- Punctuation and quoted text in the character argument must exactly match (except for case) the corresponding parts of the format model.
- The character argument cannot have extra blanks. Without `fx`, the Oracle server ignores extra blanks.
- Numeric data in the character argument must have the same number of digits as the corresponding element in the format model. Without `fx`, the numbers in the character argument can omit leading zeros.

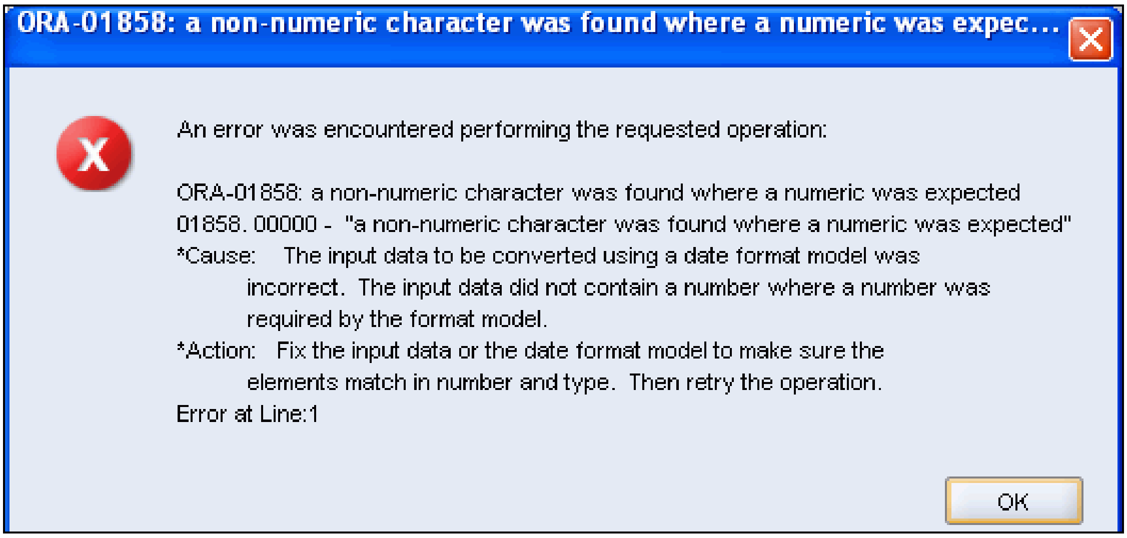
Using the `TO_NUMBER` and `TO_DATE` Functions (continued)

Example:

Display the name and hire date for all employees who started on May 24, 1999. There are two spaces after the month *May* and the number *24* in the following example. Because the `fx` modifier is used, an exact match is required and the spaces after the word *May* are not recognized:

```
SELECT last_name, hire_date
FROM   employees
WHERE  hire_date = TO_DATE('May   24, 1999', 'fxMonth DD, YYYY');
```

The error:



ORA-01858: a non-numeric character was found where a numeric was expec...

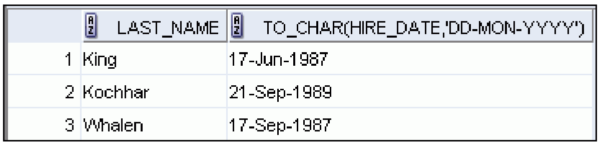
```
An error was encountered performing the requested operation:

ORA-01858: a non-numeric character was found where a numeric was expected
01858. 00000 -  "a non-numeric character was found where a numeric was expected"
*Cause:    The input data to be converted using a date format model was
           incorrect.  The input data did not contain a number where a number was
           required by the format model.
*Action:   Fix the input data or the date format model to make sure the
           elements match in number and type.  Then retry the operation.
Error at Line:1
```

Using the `TO_CHAR` and `TO_DATE` Function with `RR` Date Format

To find employees hired before 1990, use the `RR` date format, which produces the same results whether the command is run in 1999 or now:

```
SELECT last_name, TO_CHAR(hire_date, 'DD-Mon-YYYY')
FROM  employees
WHERE hire_date < TO_DATE('01-Jan-90','DD-Mon-RR');
```



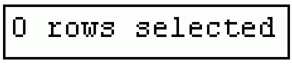
	LAST_NAME	TO_CHAR(HIRE_DATE,'DD-MON-YYYY')
1	King	17-Jun-1987
2	Kochhar	21-Sep-1989
3	Whalen	17-Sep-1987

Using the `TO_CHAR` and `TO_DATE` Function with `RR` Date Format

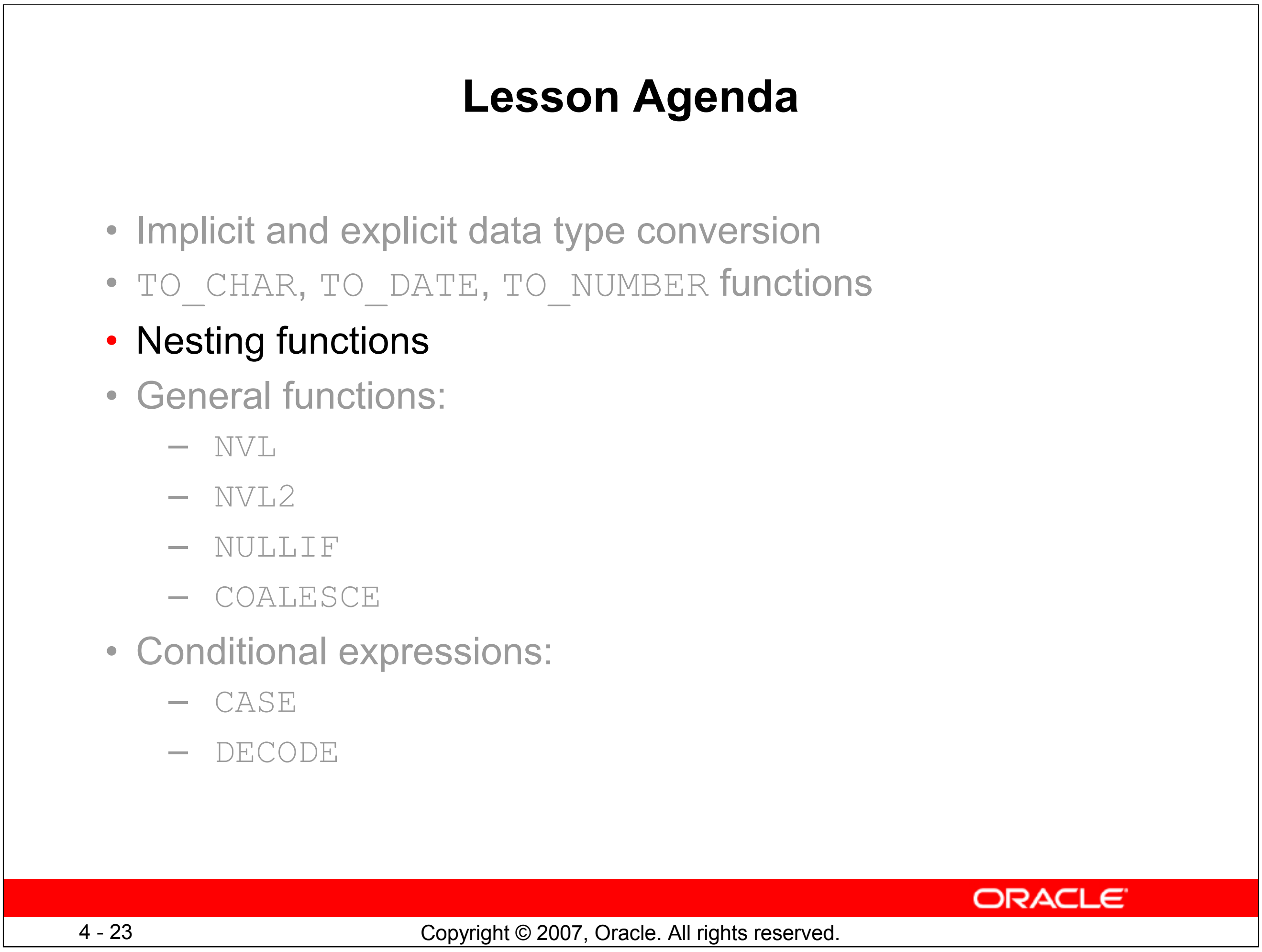
To find employees who were hired before 1990, the `RR` format can be used. Because the current year is greater than 1999, the `RR` format interprets the year portion of the date from 1950 to 1999.

The following command, on the other hand, results in no rows being selected because the `YY` format interprets the year portion of the date in the current century (2090).

```
SELECT last_name, TO_CHAR(hire_date, 'DD-Mon-yyyy')
FROM   employees
WHERE  TO_DATE(hire_date, 'DD-Mon-yy') < '01-Jan-1990';
```



```
0 rows selected
```

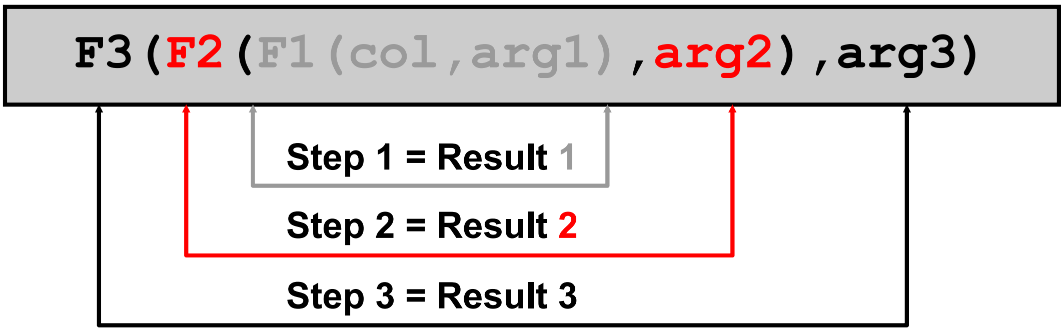


Lesson Agenda

- 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`

Nesting Functions

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



```
F3(F2(F1(col,arg1),arg2),arg3)
```

Step 1 = Result 1

Step 2 = Result 2

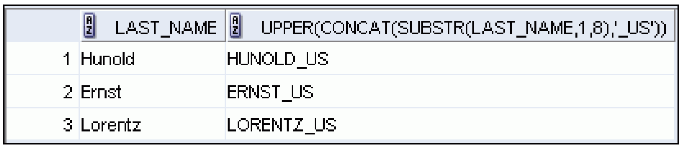
Step 3 = Result 3

Nesting Functions

Single-row functions can be nested to any depth. Nested functions are evaluated from the innermost level to the outermost level. Some examples follow to show you the flexibility of these functions.

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 (continued)

The slide example displays the last names of employees in department 60. The evaluation of the SQL statement involves three steps:

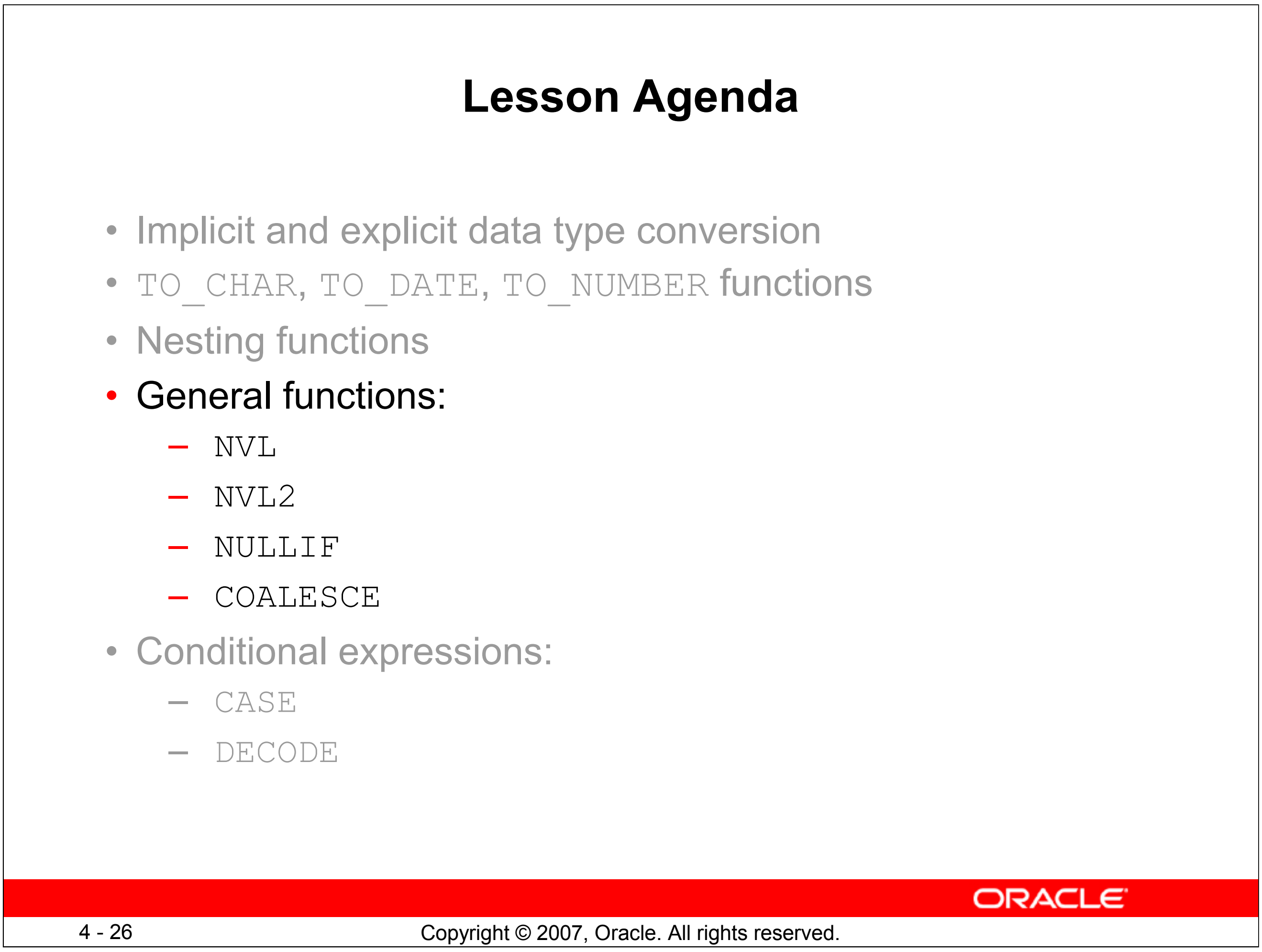
1. The inner function retrieves the first eight characters of the last name.
   `Result1 = SUBSTR (LAST_NAME, 1, 8)`
2. The outer function concatenates the result with `_US`.
   `Result2 = CONCAT(Result1, '_US')`
3. The outermost function converts the results to uppercase.

The entire expression becomes the column heading because no column alias was given.

Example:

Display the date of the next Friday that is six months from the hire date. The resulting date should appear as Friday, August 13th, 1999. Order the results by hire date.

```
SELECT    TO_CHAR(NEXT_DAY(ADD_MONTHS
          (hire_date, 6), 'FRIDAY'),
          'fmDay, Month ddth, YYYY')
          "Next 6 Month Review"
FROM       employees
ORDER BY   hire_date;
```



Lesson Agenda

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

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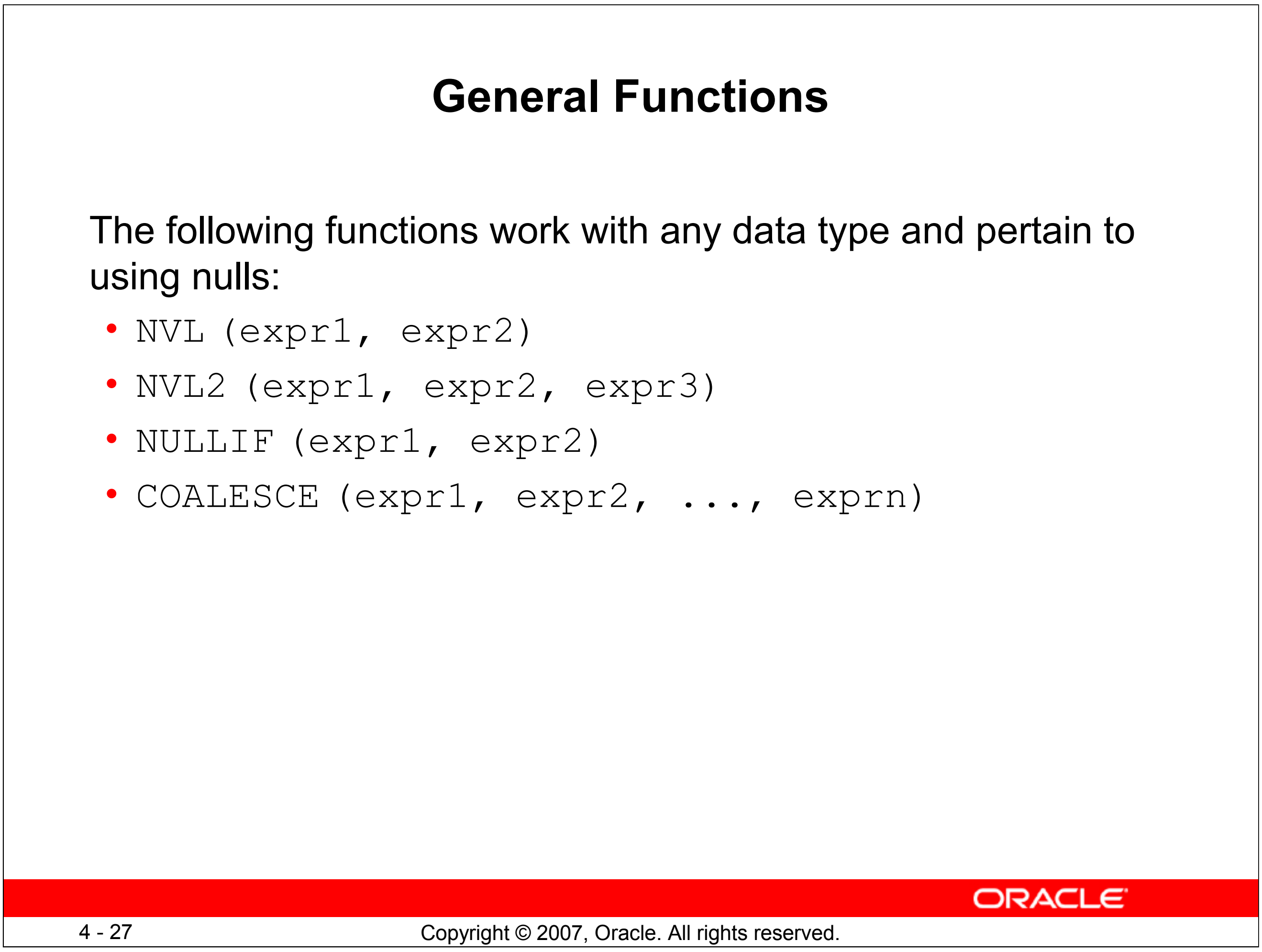

General Functions

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)`

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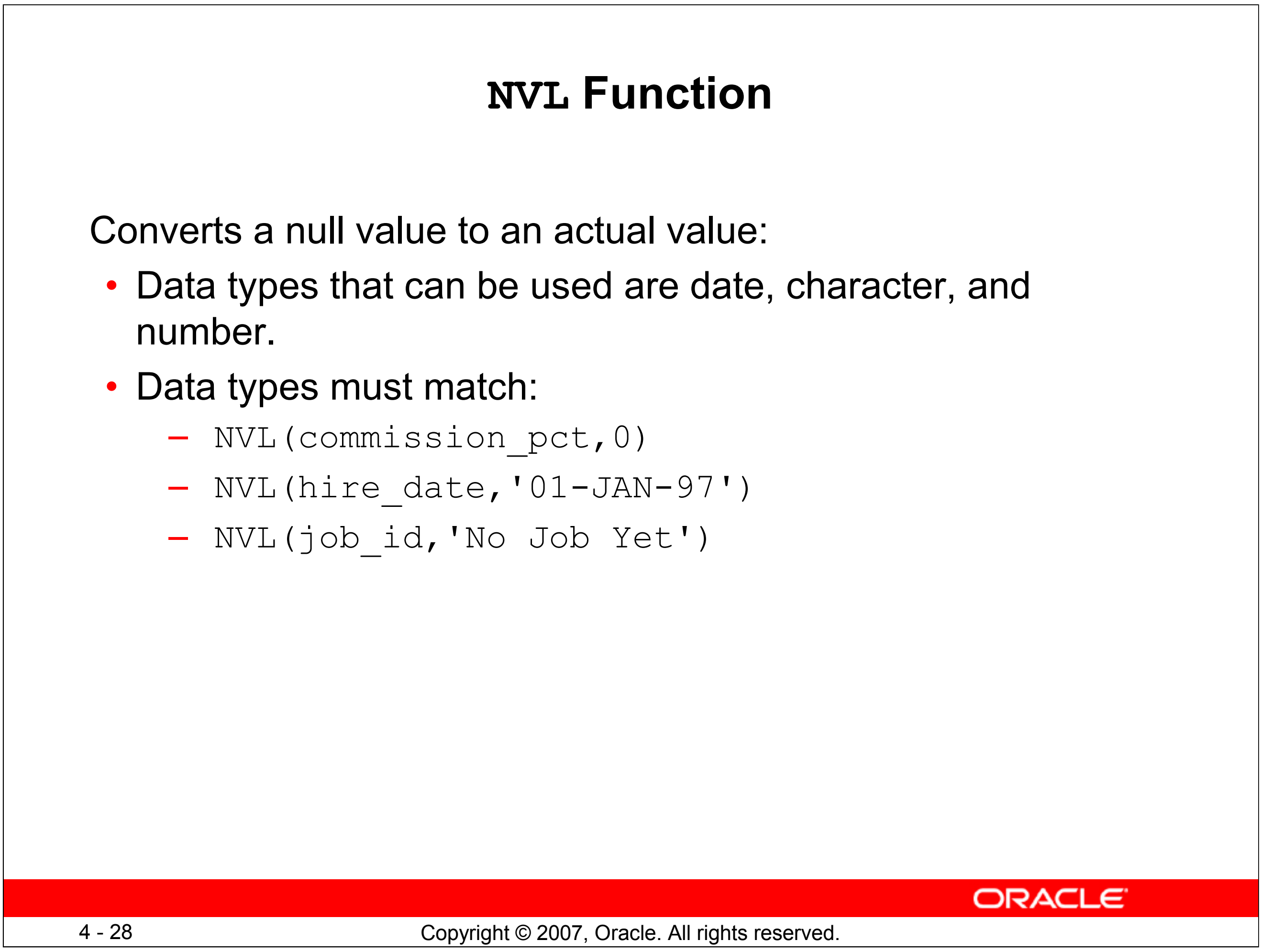
General Functions

These functions work with any data type and pertain to the use of null values in the expression list.

Function	Description
`NVL`	Converts a null value to an actual value
`NVL2`	If `expr1` is not null, `NVL2` returns `expr2`. If `expr1` is null, `NVL2` returns `expr3`. The argument `expr1` can have any data type.
`NULLIF`	Compares two expressions and returns null if they are equal; returns the first expression if they are not equal
`COALESCE`	Returns the first non-null expression in the expression list

Note: For more information about the hundreds of functions available, see the section on *Functions* in *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference 11g, Release 1 (11.1)*.



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')`

NVL Function

To convert a null value to an actual value, use the NVL function.

Syntax

```
NVL (expr1, expr2)
```

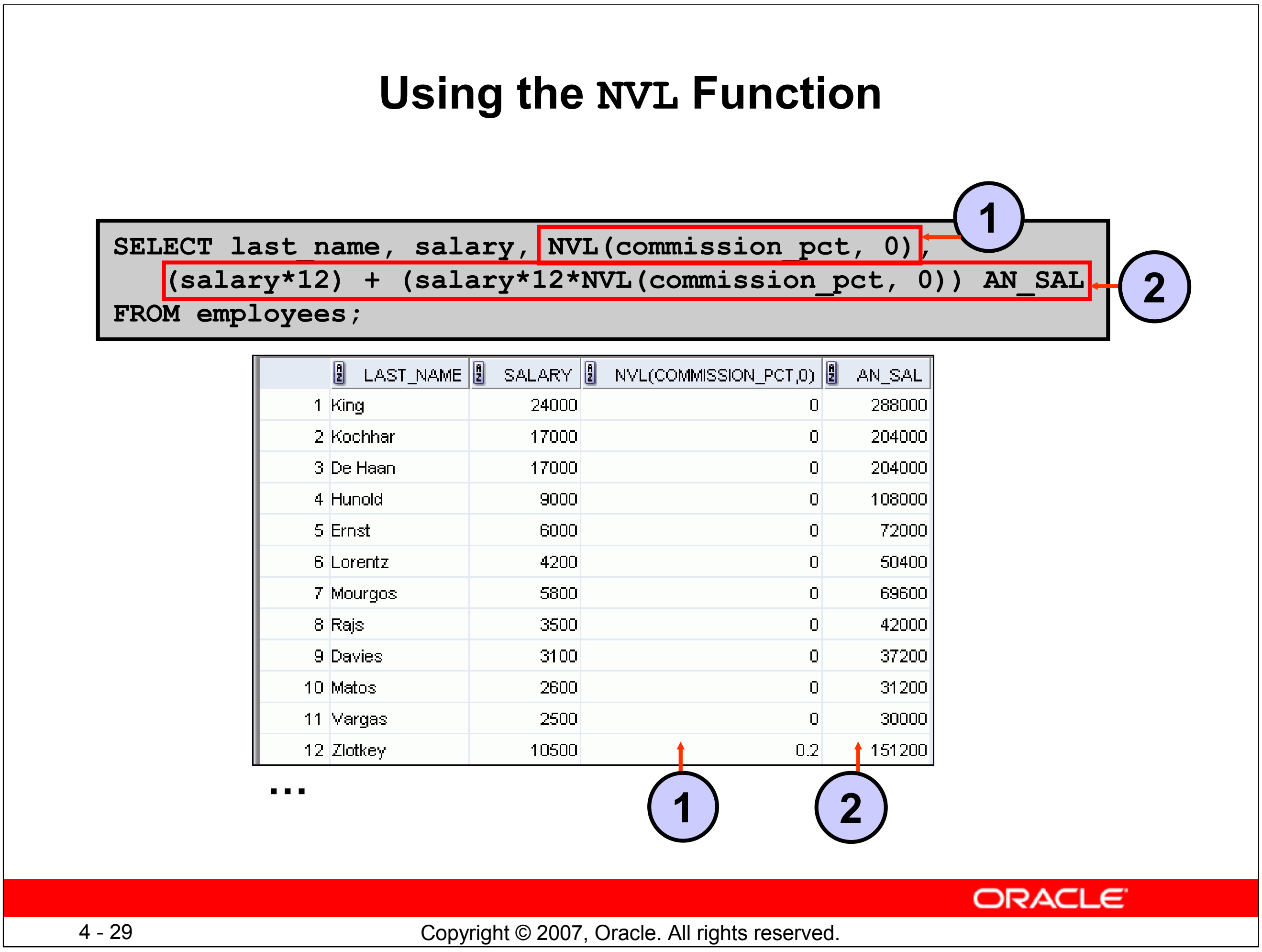
In the syntax:

- *expr1* is the source value or expression that may contain a null
- *expr2* is the target value for converting the null

You can use the NVL function to convert any data type, but the return value is always the same as the data type of *expr1*.

NVL Conversions for Various Data Types

Data Type	Conversion Example
NUMBER	NVL(*number_column*,9)
DATE	NVL(*date_column*, '01-JAN-95')
CHAR or VARCHAR2	NVL(*character_column*, 'Unavailable')



Using the NVL Function

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

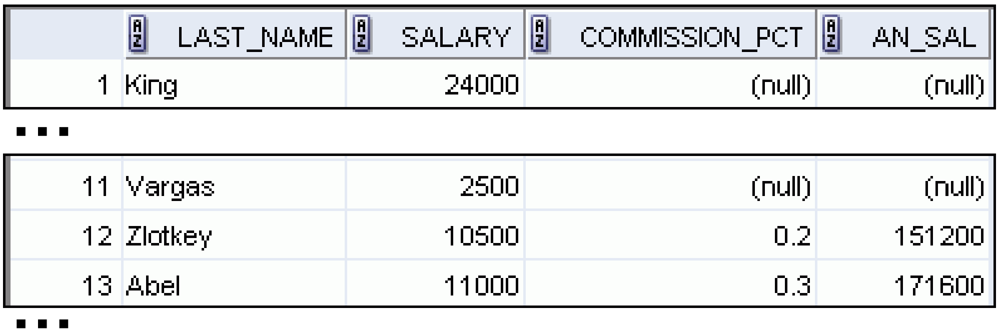
	LAST_NAME	SALARY	NVL(COMMISSION_PCT,0)	AN_SAL
1	King	24000	0	288000
2	Kochhar	17000	0	204000
3	De Haan	17000	0	204000
4	Hunold	9000	0	108000
5	Ernst	6000	0	72000
6	Lorentz	4200	0	50400
7	Mourgos	5800	0	69600
8	Rajs	3500	0	42000
9	Davies	3100	0	37200
10	Matos	2600	0	31200
11	Vargas	2500	0	30000
12	Zlotkey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

…

Using the NVL Function

To calculate the annual compensation of all employees, you need to multiply the monthly salary by 12 and then add the commission percentage to the result:

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



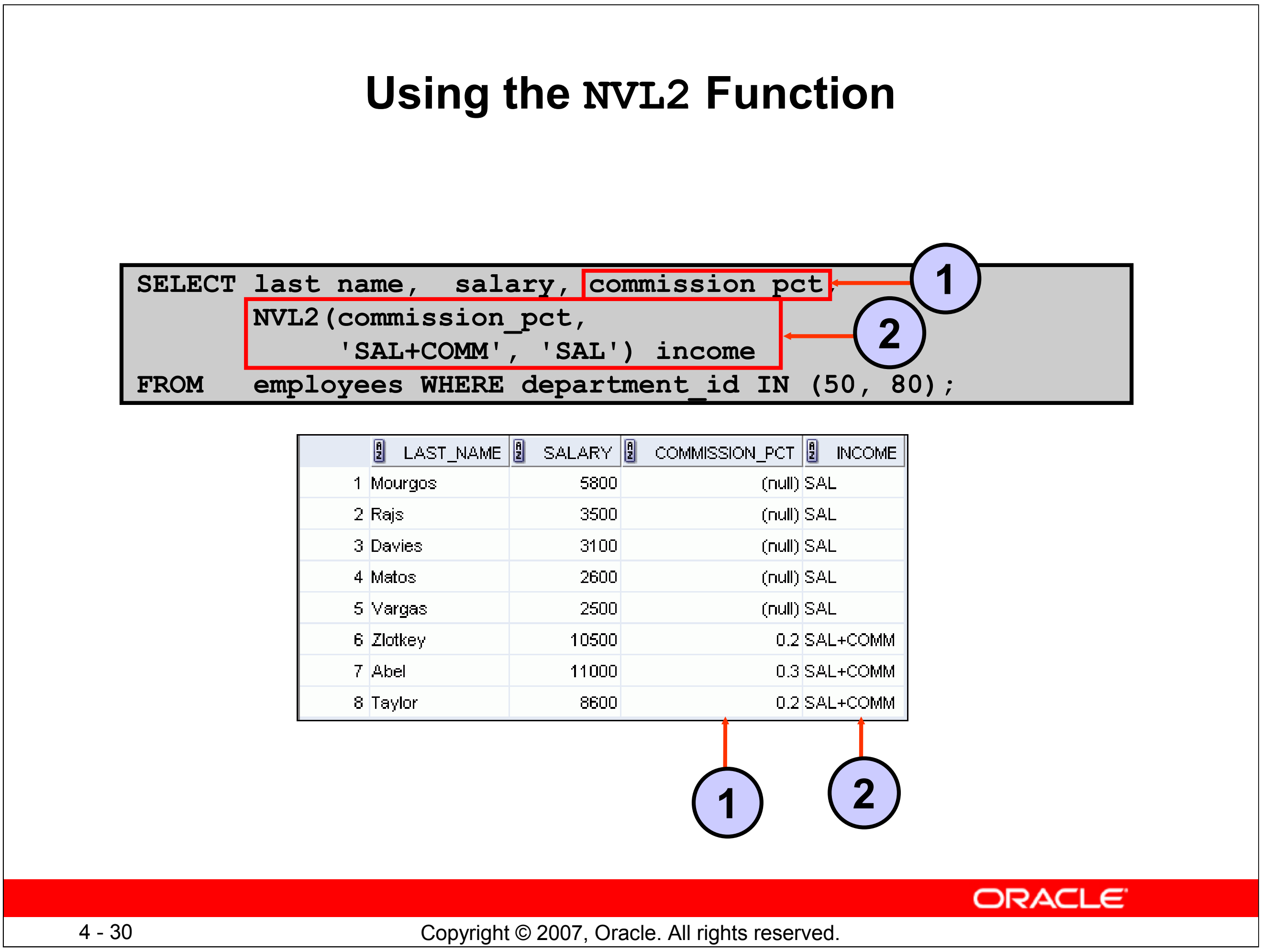
	LAST_NAME	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT	AN_SAL
1	King	24000	(null)	(null)

…

11	Vargas	2500	(null)	(null)
12	Zlotkey	10500	0.2	151200
13	Abel	11000	0.3	171600

…

Notice that the annual compensation is calculated for only those employees who earn a commission. If any column value in an expression is null, the result is null. To calculate values for all employees, you must convert the null value to a number before applying the arithmetic operator. In the example in the slide, the NVL function is used to convert null values to zero.



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);
```

	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

Using the NVL2 Function

The NVL2 function examines the first expression. If the first expression is not null, then the NVL2 function returns the second expression. If the first expression is null, then the third expression is returned.

Syntax

```
NVL2(expr1, expr2, expr3)
```

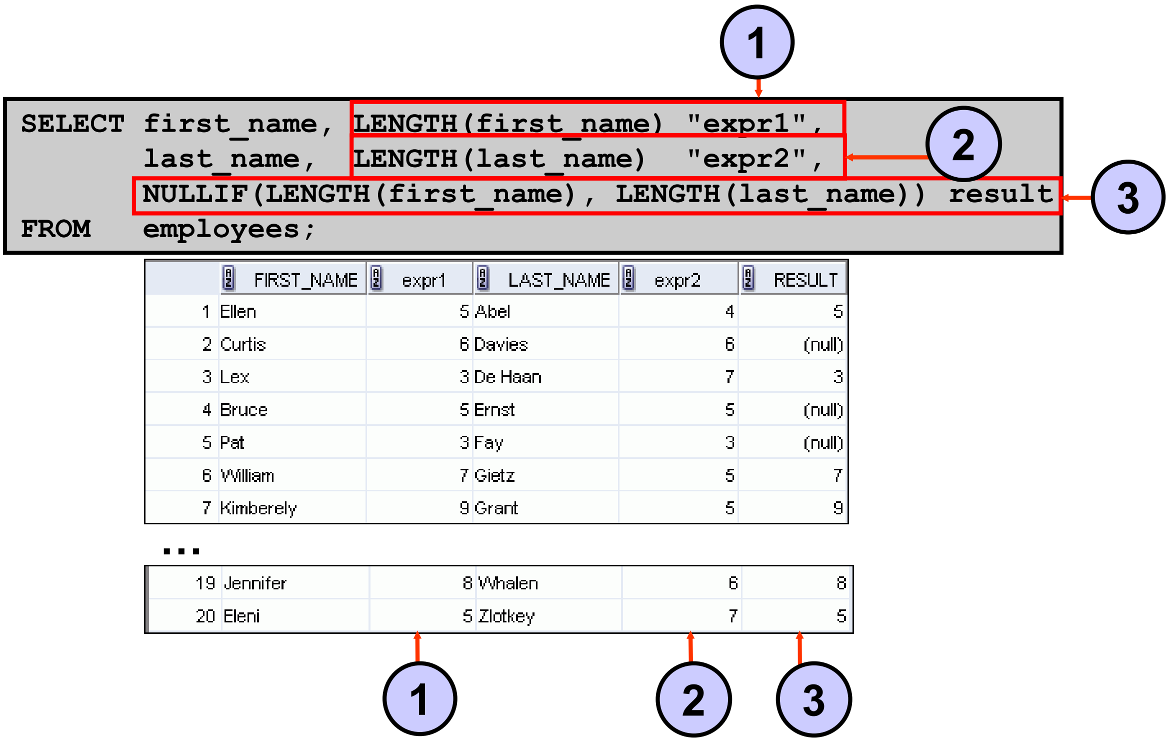
In the syntax:

- *expr1* is the source value or expression that may contain a null
- *expr2* is the value that is returned if *expr1* is not null
- *expr3* is the value that is returned if *expr1* is null

In the example shown in the slide, the COMMISSION_PCT column is examined. If a value is detected, the second expression of SAL+COMM is returned. If the COMMISSION_PCT column holds a null value, the third expression of SAL is returned.

The argument *expr1* can have any data type. The arguments *expr2* and *expr3* can have any data types except LONG. If the data types of *expr2* and *expr3* are different, the Oracle server converts *expr3* to the data type of *expr2* before comparing them, unless *expr3* is a null constant. In the latter case, a data type conversion is not necessary. The data type of the return value is always the same as the data type of *expr2*, unless *expr2* is character data, in which case the return value's data type is VARCHAR2.

Using the NULLIF Function



```
SELECT first_name, LENGTH(first_name) "expr1",
       last_name,  LENGTH(last_name)  "expr2",
       NULLIF(LENGTH(first_name), LENGTH(last_name)) result
FROM   employees;
```

	FIRST_NAME	expr1	LAST_NAME	expr2	RESULT
1	Ellen	5	Abel	4	5
2	Curtis	6	Davies	6	(null)
3	Lex	3	De Haan	7	3
4	Bruce	5	Ernst	5	(null)
5	Pat	3	Fay	3	(null)
6	William	7	Gietz	5	7
7	Kimberely	9	Grant	5	9

...

19	Jennifer	8	Whalen	6	8
20	Eleni	5	Zlotkey	7	5

Using the NULLIF Function

The NULLIF function compares two expressions. If they are equal, the function returns a null. If they are not equal, the function returns the first expression. However, you cannot specify the literal NULL for the first expression.

Syntax

```
NULLIF (expr1, expr2)
```

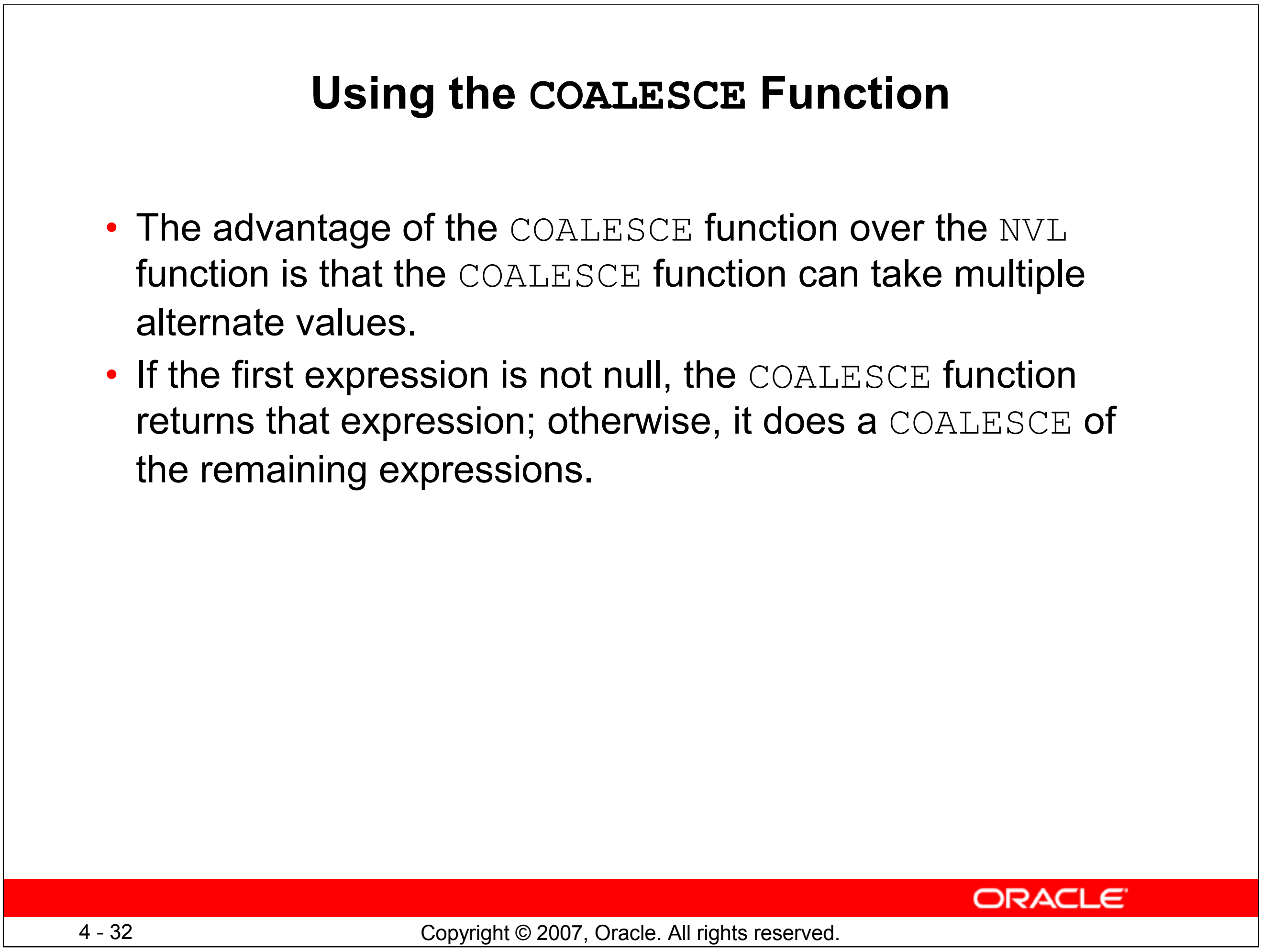
In the syntax:

- NULLIF compares *expr1* and *expr2*. If they are equal, then the function returns null. If they are not, then the function returns *expr1*. However, you cannot specify the literal NULL for *expr1*.

In the example shown in the slide, the length of the first name in the EMPLOYEES table is compared to the length of the last name in the EMPLOYEES table. When the lengths of the names are equal, a null value is displayed. When the lengths of the names are not equal, the length of the first name is displayed.

Note: The NULLIF function is logically equivalent to the following CASE expression. The CASE expression is discussed on a subsequent page:

```
CASE WHEN expr1 = expr 2 THEN NULL ELSE expr1 END
```



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

The `COALESCE` function returns the first non-null expression in the list.

Syntax

```
        COALESCE (expr1, expr2, ... exprn)
```

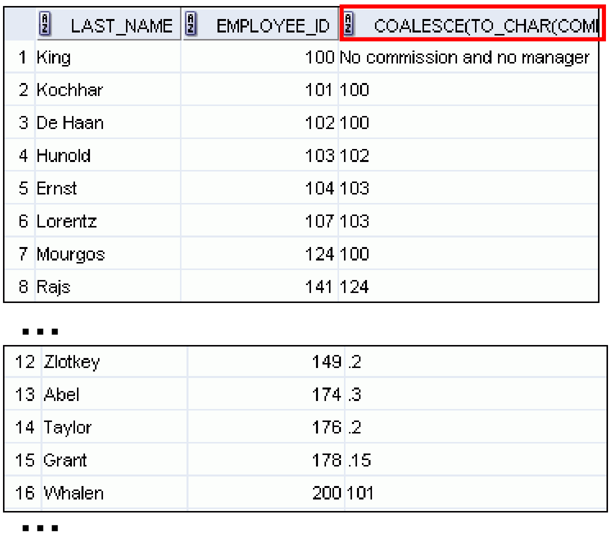
In the syntax:

- *`expr1`* returns this expression if it is not null
- *`expr2`* returns this expression if the first expression is null and this expression is not null
- *`exprn`* returns this expression if the preceding expressions are null

Note that all expressions must be of the same data type.

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

...

Using the COALESCE Function (continued)

In the example shown in the slide, if the manager_id value is not null, it is displayed. If the manager_id value is null, then the commission_pct is displayed. If the manager_id and commission_pct values are null, then "No commission and no manager" is displayed. Note, TO_CHAR function is applied so that all expressions are of the same data type.

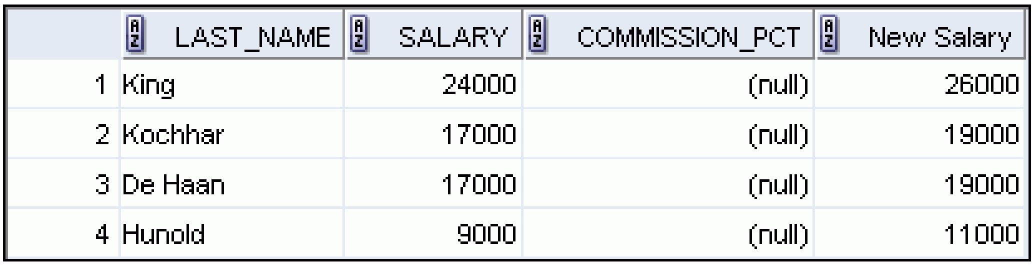
Using the `COALESCE` Function (continued)

Example:

For the employees who do not get any commission, your organization wants to give a salary increment of $2,000 and for employees who get commission, the query should compute the new salary that is equal to the existing salary added to the commission amount.

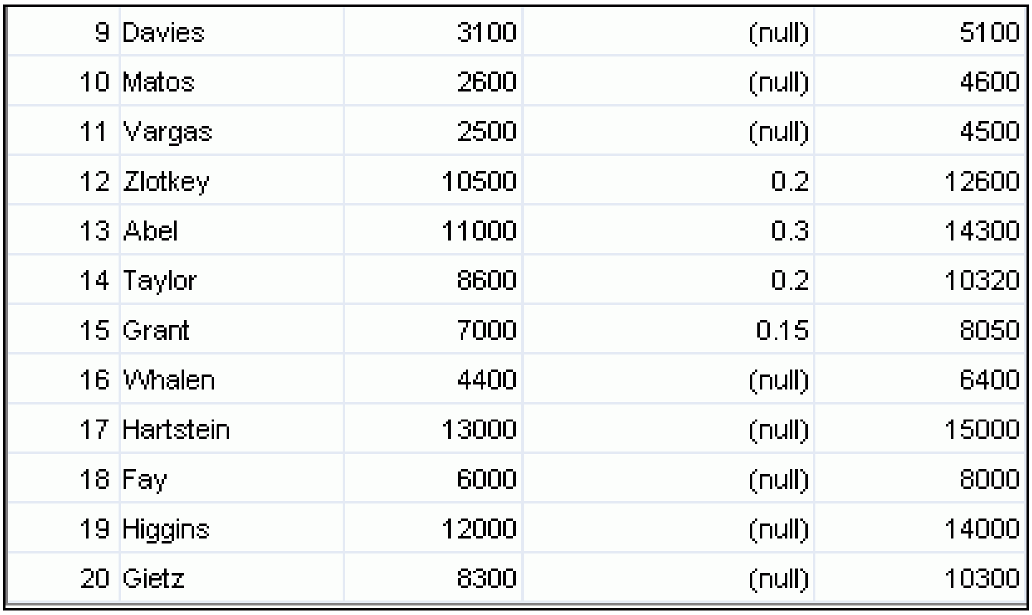
```
SELECT last_name, salary, commission_pct,
 COALESCE((salary+(commission_pct*salary)), salary+2000, salary) "New
  Salary"
FROM   employees;
```

Note: Examine the output. For employees who do not get any commission, the New Salary column shows the salary incremented by $2,000 and for employees who get commission, the New Salary column shows the computed commission amount added to the salary.



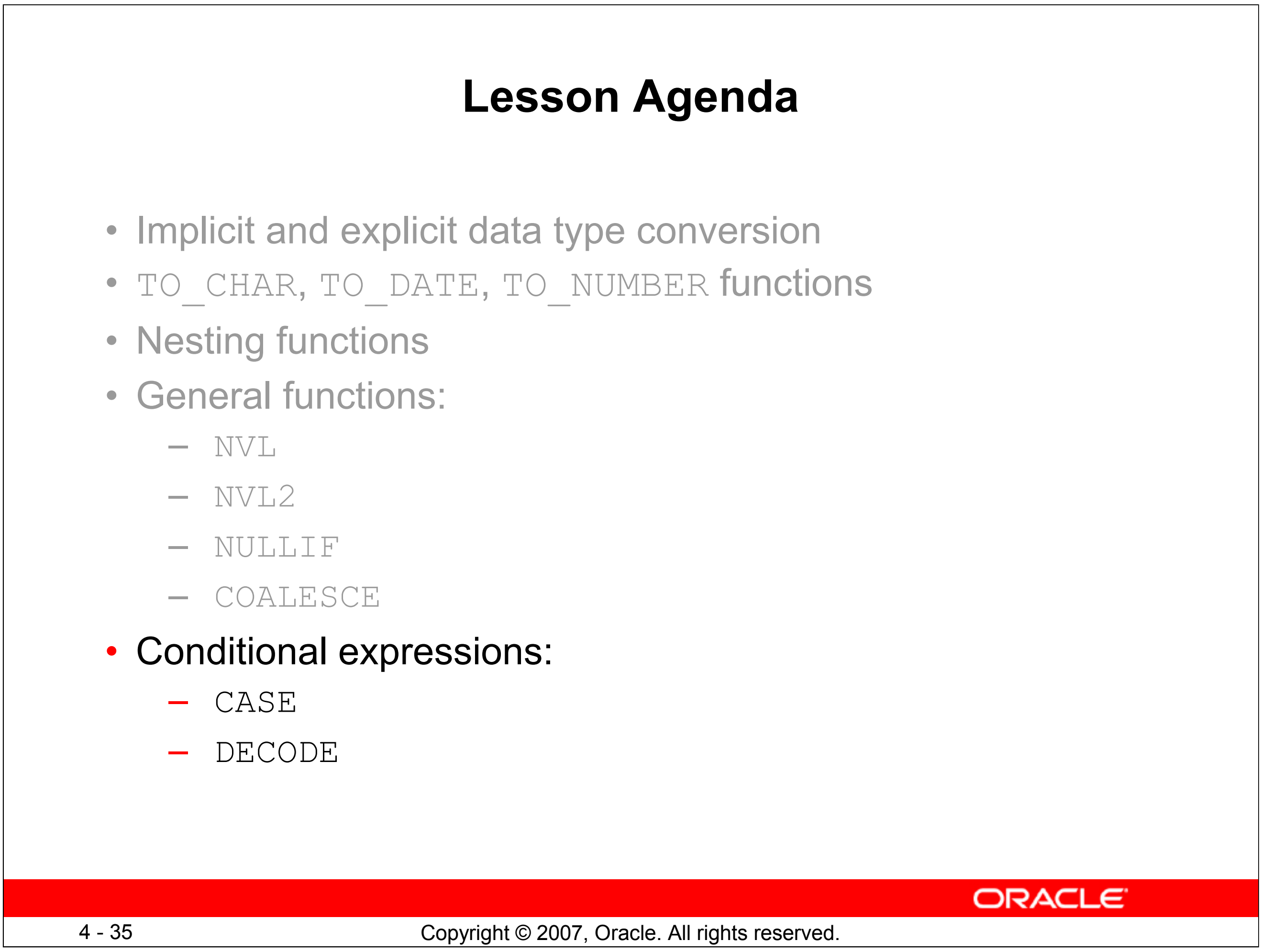
	LAST_NAME	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT	New Salary
1	King	24000	(null)	26000
2	Kochhar	17000	(null)	19000
3	De Haan	17000	(null)	19000
4	Hunold	9000	(null)	11000

...



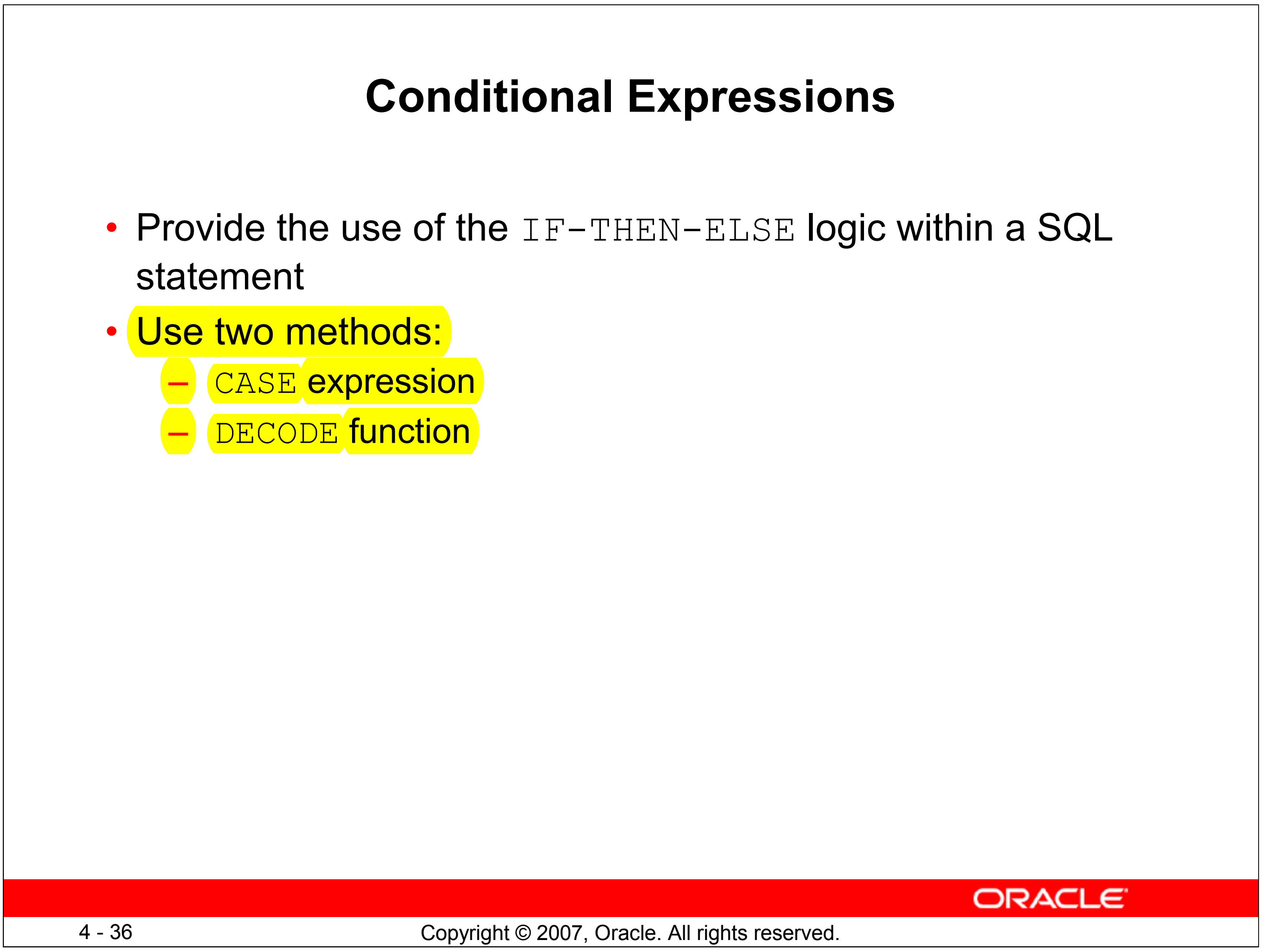
9	Davies	3100	(null)	5100
10	Matos	2600	(null)	4600
11	Vargas	2500	(null)	4500
12	Zlotkey	10500	0.2	12600
13	Abel	11000	0.3	14300
14	Taylor	8600	0.2	10320
15	Grant	7000	0.15	8050
16	Whalen	4400	(null)	6400
17	Hartstein	13000	(null)	15000
18	Fay	6000	(null)	8000
19	Higgins	12000	(null)	14000
20	Gietz	8300	(null)	10300

...



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



Conditional Expressions

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

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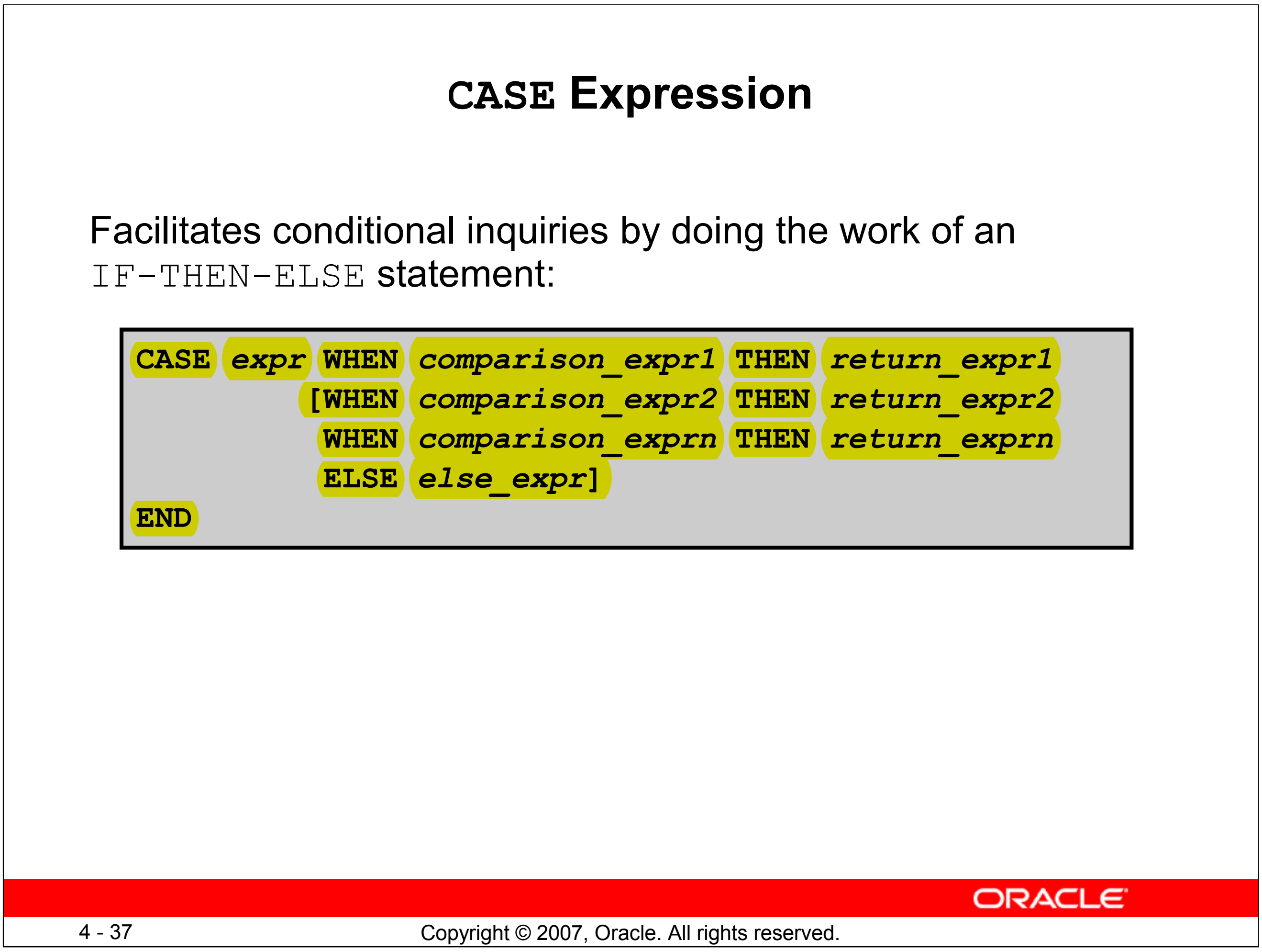
Conditional Expressions

The two methods that are used to implement conditional processing (`IF-THEN-ELSE` logic) in a SQL statement are the `CASE` expression and the `DECODE` function.

Note: The `CASE` expression complies with the ANSI SQL. The `DECODE` function is specific to Oracle syntax.



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
```

CASE Expression

CASE expressions allow you to use the IF-THEN-ELSE logic in SQL statements without having to invoke procedures.

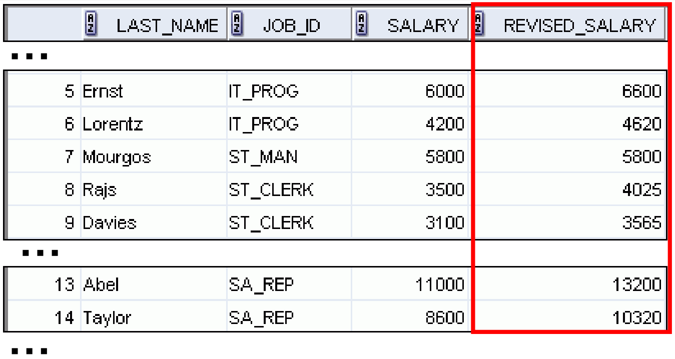
In a simple CASE expression, the Oracle server searches for the first WHEN ... THEN pair for which expr is equal to comparison_expr and returns return_expr. If none of the WHEN ... THEN pairs meet this condition, and if an ELSE clause exists, then the Oracle server returns else_expr. Otherwise, the Oracle server returns a null. You cannot specify the literal NULL for all the return_exprs and the else_expr.

All of the expressions (expr, comparison_expr, and return_expr) must be of the same data type, which can be CHAR, VARCHAR2, NCHAR, or NVARCHAR2.

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
...				

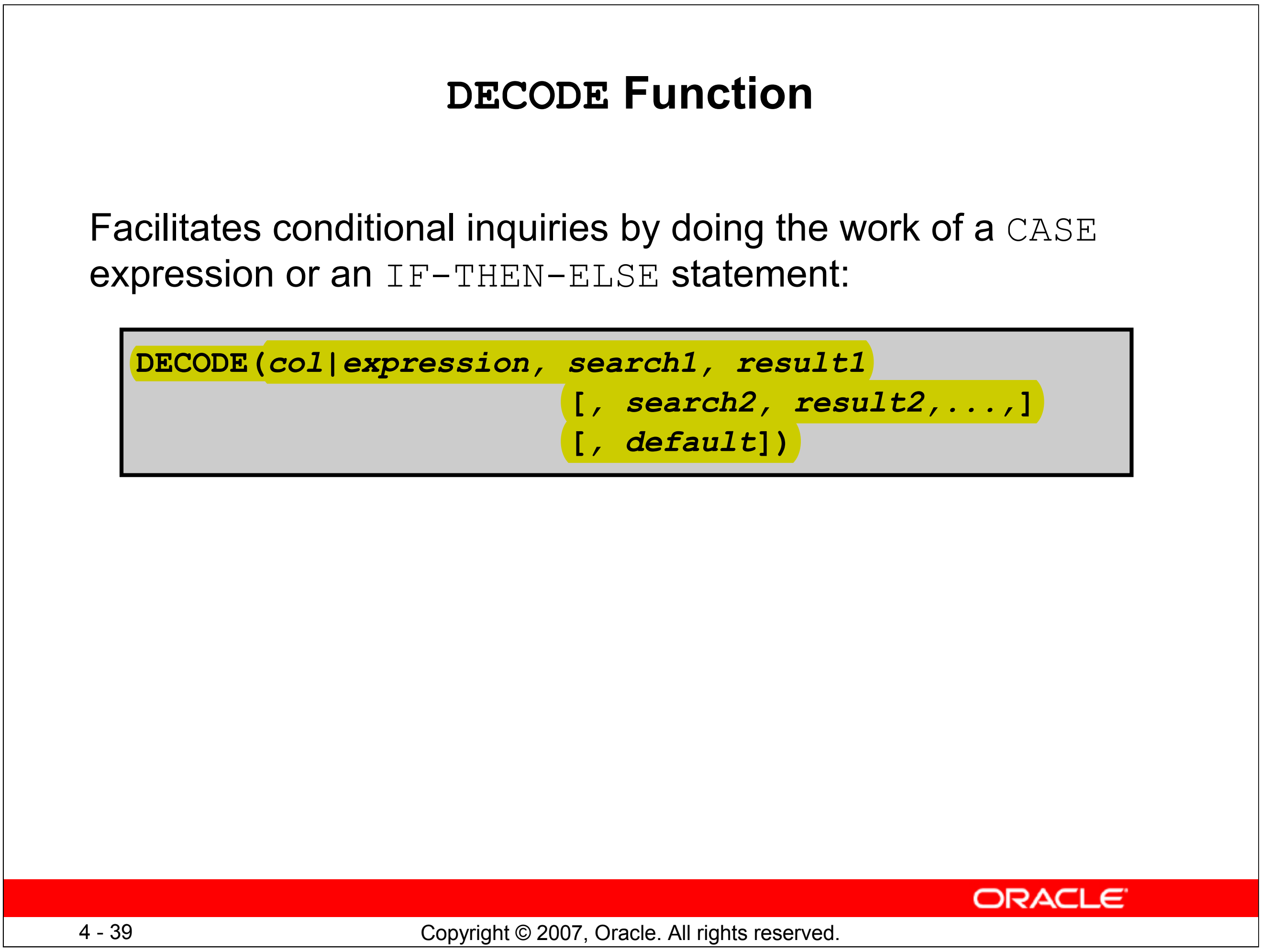
Using the CASE Expression

In the SQL statement in the slide, the value of JOB_ID is decoded. If JOB_ID is IT_PROG, the salary increase is 10%; if JOB_ID is ST_CLERK, the salary increase is 15%; if JOB_ID is SA_REP, the salary increase is 20%. For all other job roles, there is no increase in salary.

The same statement can be written with the DECODE function.

This is an example of a searched CASE expression. In a searched CASE expression, the search occurs from left to right until an occurrence of the listed condition is found, and then it returns the return expression. If no condition is found to be true, and if an ELSE clause exists, the return expression in the ELSE clause is returned; otherwise, a NULL is returned.

```
SELECT last_name,salary,
(CASE WHEN salary<5000 THEN 'Low'
      WHEN salary<10000 THEN 'Medium'
      WHEN salary<20000 THEN 'Good'
      ELSE 'Excellent'
END) qualified_salary
FROM employees;
```



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])
```

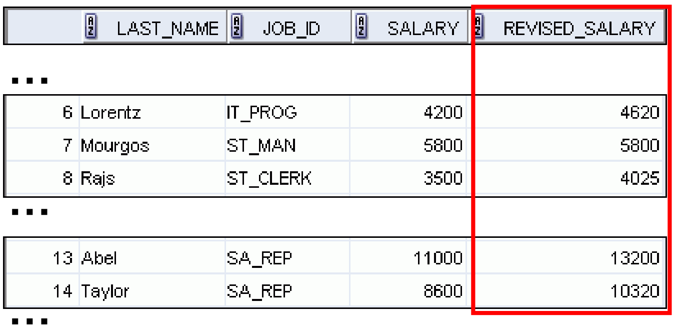
DECODE Function

The DECODE function decodes an expression in a way similar to the IF-THEN-ELSE logic that is used in various languages. The DECODE function decodes *expression* after comparing it to each *search* value. If the expression is the same as *search*, *result* is returned.

If the default value is omitted, a null value is returned where a search value does not match any of the result values.

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;
```



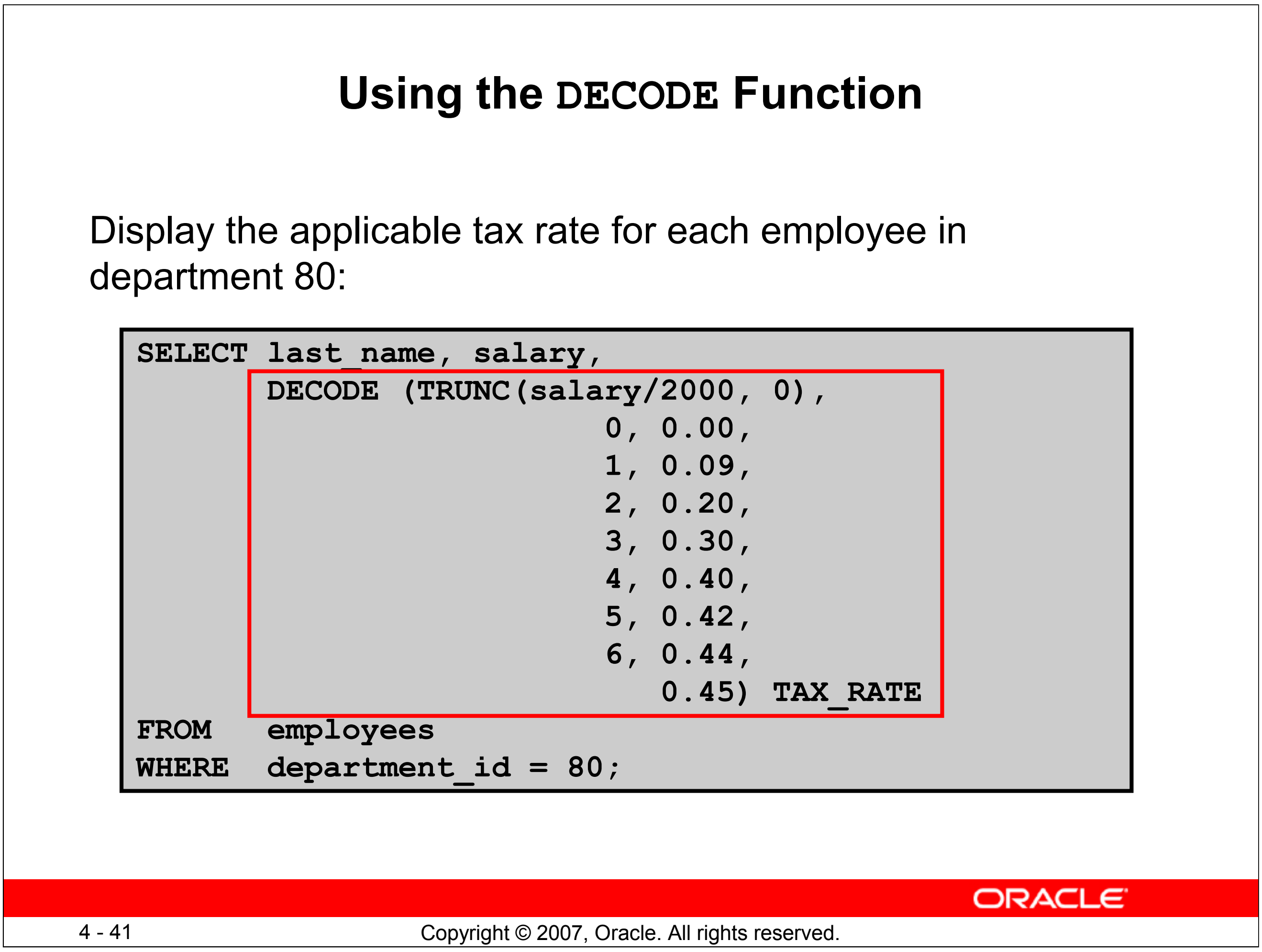
	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY	REVISED_SALARY
...				
6	Lorentz	IT_PROG	4200	4620
7	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800	5800
8	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500	4025
...				
13	Abel	SA_REP	11000	13200
14	Taylor	SA_REP	8600	10320
...				

Using the DECODE Function

In the SQL statement in the slide, the value of JOB_ID is tested. If JOB_ID is IT_PROG, the salary increase is 10%; if JOB_ID is ST_CLERK, the salary increase is 15%; if JOB_ID is SA_REP, the salary increase is 20%. For all other job roles, there is no increase in salary.

The same statement can be expressed in pseudocode as an IF-THEN-ELSE statement:

```
IF job_id = 'IT_PROG'     THEN  salary = salary*1.10
IF job_id = 'ST_CLERK'    THEN  salary = salary*1.15
IF job_id = 'SA_REP'      THEN  salary = salary*1.20
ELSE salary = salary
```



Using the `DECODE` Function

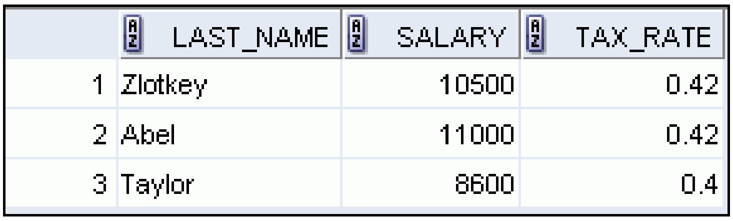
Display the applicable tax rate for each employee in department 80:

```
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;
```

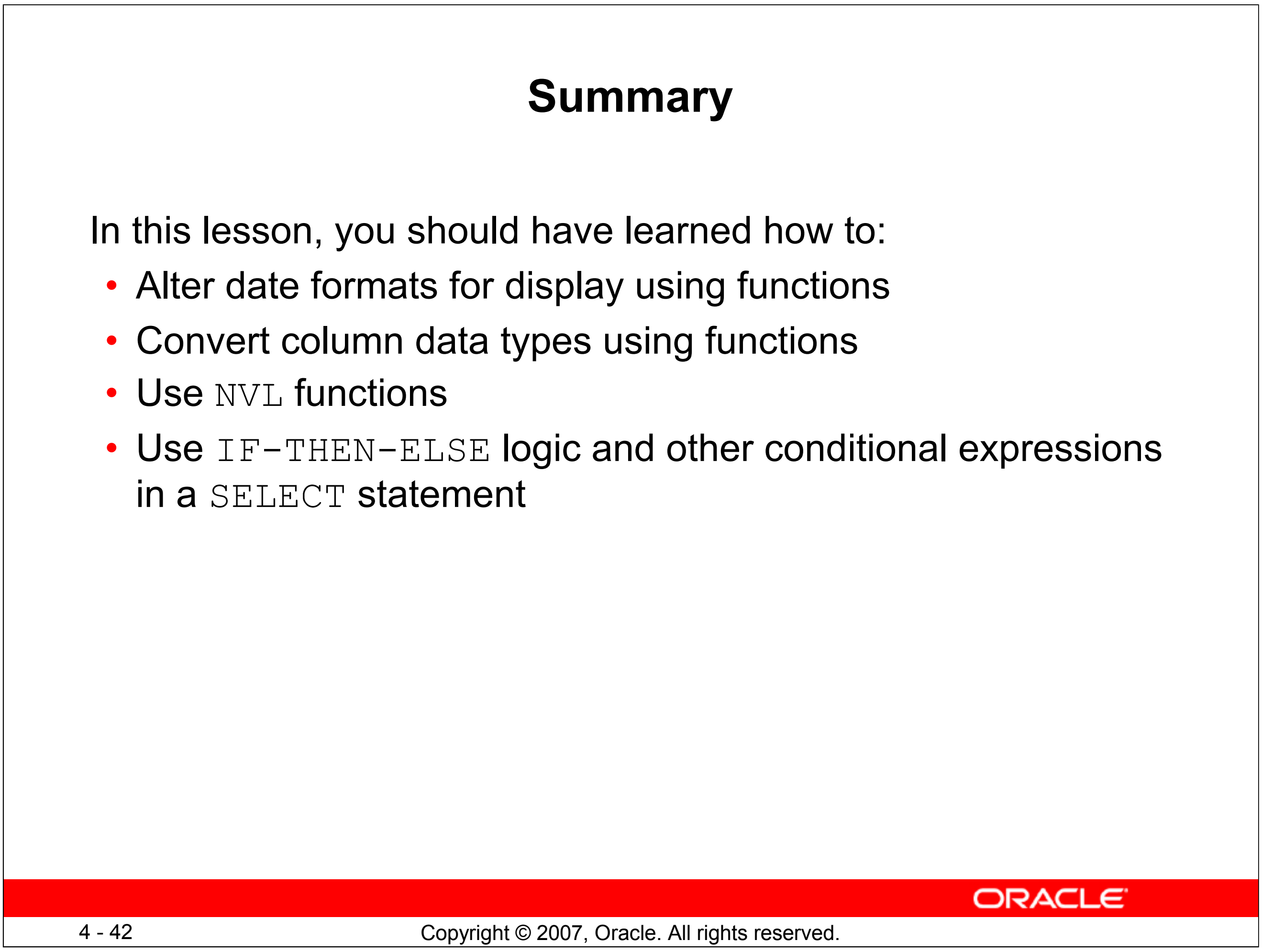
Using the `DECODE` Function (continued)

This slide shows another example using the `DECODE` function. In this example, you determine the tax rate for each employee in department 80 based on the monthly salary. The tax rates are as follows:

Monthly Salary Range	***Tax Rate***
$0.00–1,999.99	00%
$2,000.00–3,999.99	09%
$4,000.00–5,999.99	20%
$6,000.00–7,999.99	30%
$8,000.00–9,999.99	40%
$10,000.00–11,999.99	42%
$12,200.00–13,999.99	44%
$14,000.00 or greater	45%



	LAST_NAME	SALARY	TAX_RATE
1	Zlotkey	10500	0.42
2	Abel	11000	0.42
3	Taylor	8600	0.4



Summary

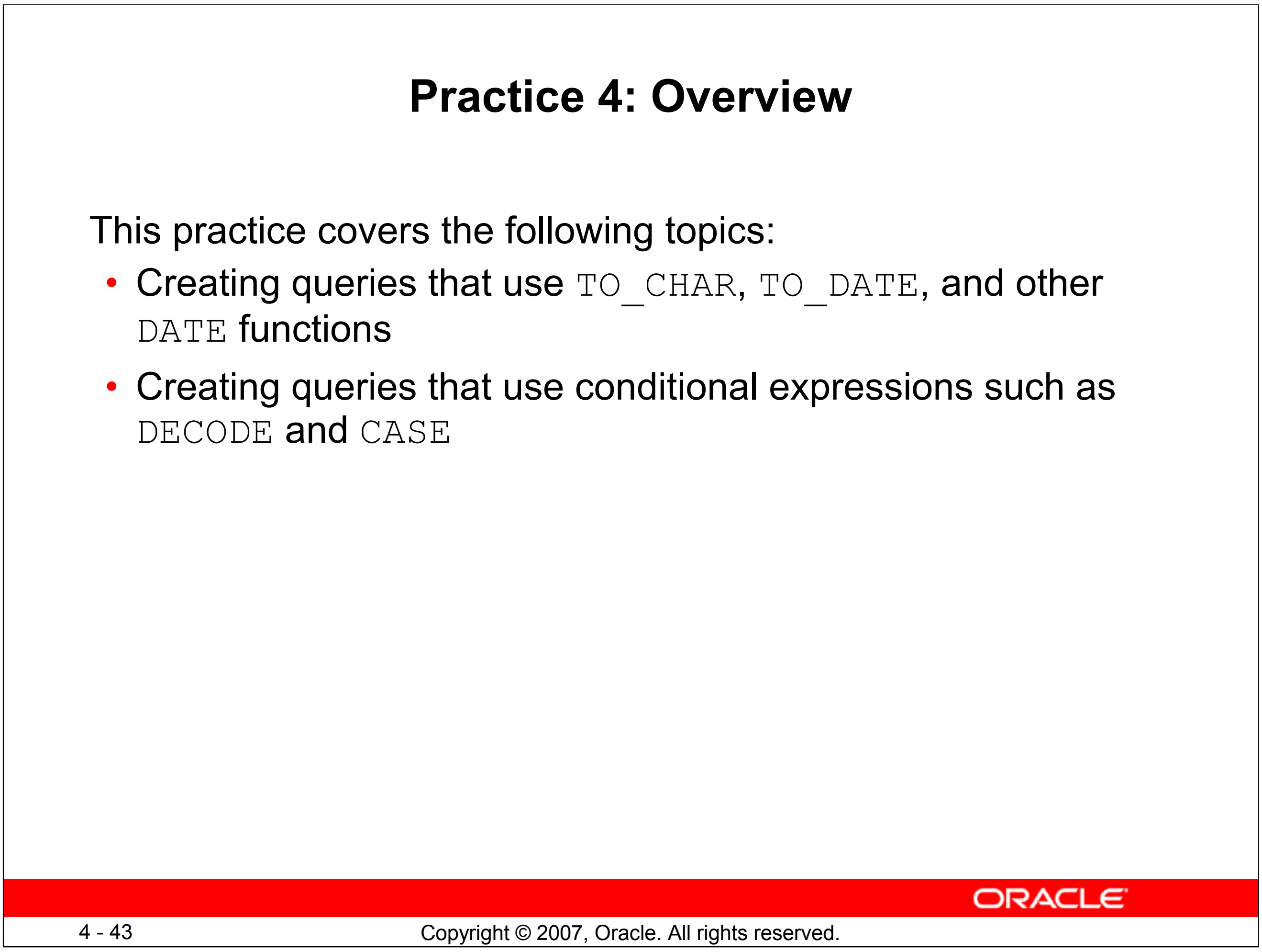
In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- 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

Summary

Remember the following:

- Conversion functions can convert character, date, and numeric values: `TO_CHAR`, `TO_DATE`, `TO_NUMBER`
- There are several functions that pertain to nulls, including `NVL`, `NVL2`, `NULLIF`, and `COALESCE`.
- `IF-THEN-ELSE` logic can be applied within a SQL statement by using the `CASE` expression or the `DECODE` function.



Practice 4: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

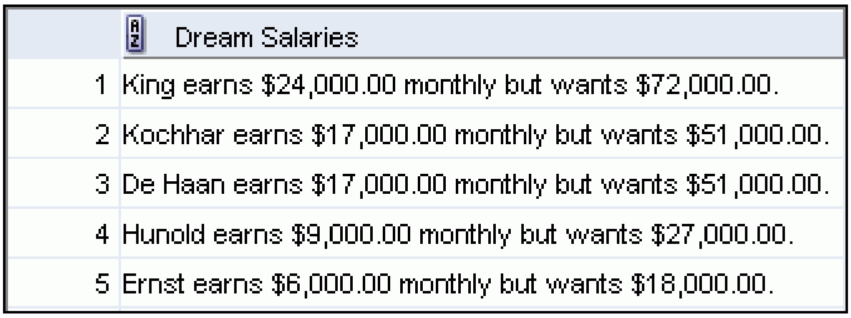
- Creating queries that use `TO_CHAR`, `TO_DATE`, and other `DATE` functions
- Creating queries that use conditional expressions such as `DECODE` and `CASE`

Practice 4: Overview

This practice provides a variety of exercises using `TO_CHAR` and `TO_DATE` functions, and conditional expressions such as `DECODE` and `CASE`. Remember that for nested functions, the results are evaluated from the innermost function to the outermost function.

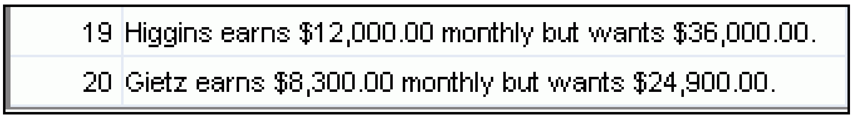
Practice 4

1. Create a report that produces the following for each employee:
   `<employee last name> earns <salary> monthly but wants <3 times salary.>`. Label the column `Dream Salaries`.



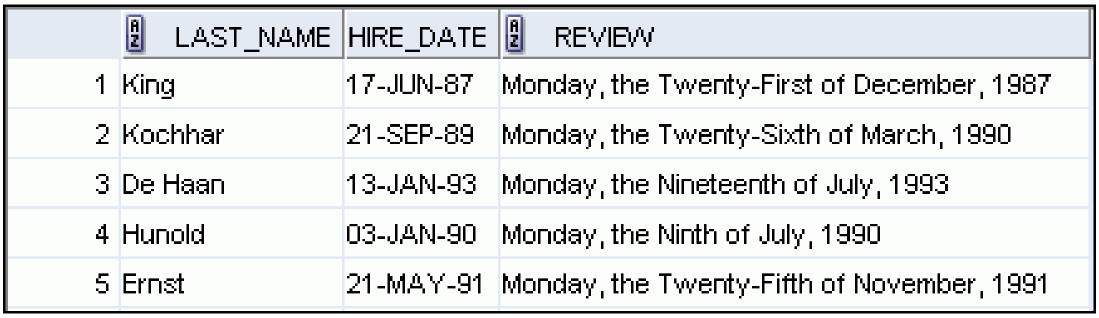
	Dream Salaries
1	King earns $24,000.00 monthly but wants $72,000.00.
2	Kochhar earns $17,000.00 monthly but wants $51,000.00.
3	De Haan earns $17,000.00 monthly but wants $51,000.00.
4	Hunold earns $9,000.00 monthly but wants $27,000.00.
5	Ernst earns $6,000.00 monthly but wants $18,000.00.

...



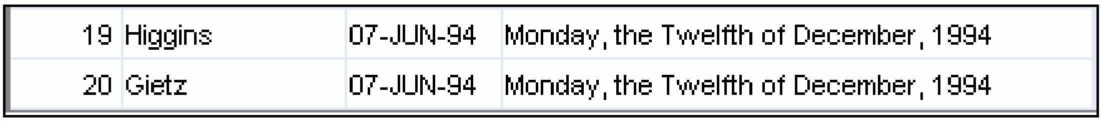
19	Higgins earns $12,000.00 monthly but wants $36,000.00.
20	Gietz earns $8,300.00 monthly but wants $24,900.00.

2. Display each employee's last name, hire date, and salary review date, which is the first Monday after six months of service. Label the column `REVIEW`. Format the dates to appear in the format similar to "Monday, the Thirty-First of July, 2000."



	LAST_NAME	HIRE_DATE	REVIEW
1	King	17-JUN-87	Monday, the Twenty-First of December, 1987
2	Kochhar	21-SEP-89	Monday, the Twenty-Sixth of March, 1990
3	De Haan	13-JAN-93	Monday, the Nineteenth of July, 1993
4	Hunold	03-JAN-90	Monday, the Ninth of July, 1990
5	Ernst	21-MAY-91	Monday, the Twenty-Fifth of November, 1991

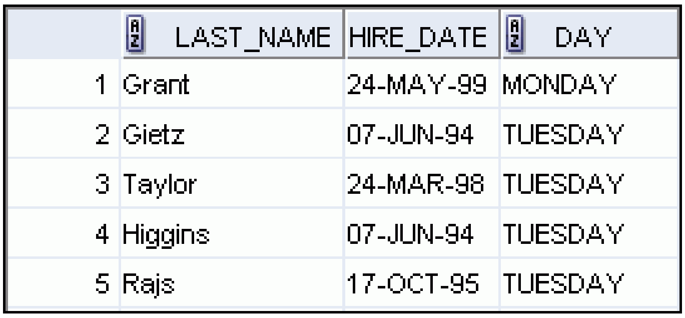
...



19	Higgins	07-JUN-94	Monday, the Twelfth of December, 1994
20	Gietz	07-JUN-94	Monday, the Twelfth of December, 1994

Practice 4 (continued)

3. Display the last name, hire date, and day of the week on which the employee started. Label the column `DAY`. Order the results by the day of the week, starting with Monday.



	LAST_NAME	HIRE_DATE	DAY
1	Grant	24-MAY-99	MONDAY
2	Gietz	07-JUN-94	TUESDAY
3	Taylor	24-MAR-98	TUESDAY
4	Higgins	07-JUN-94	TUESDAY
5	Rajs	17-OCT-95	TUESDAY

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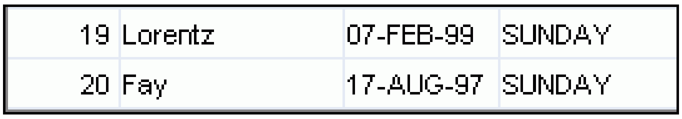
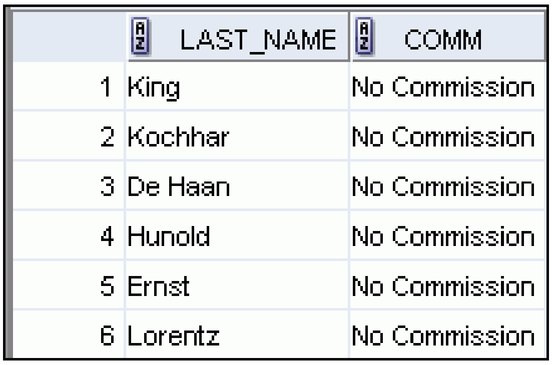


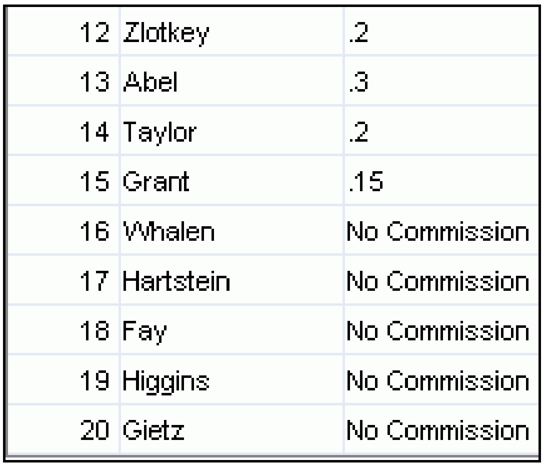
19	Lorentz	07-FEB-99	SUNDAY
20	Fay	17-AUG-97	SUNDAY

4. Create a query that displays the employees' last names and commission amounts. If an employee does not earn commission, show "No Commission." Label the column `COMM`.



	LAST_NAME	COMM
1	King	No Commission
2	Kochhar	No Commission
3	De Haan	No Commission
4	Hunold	No Commission
5	Ernst	No Commission
6	Lorentz	No Commission

▪ ▪ ▪



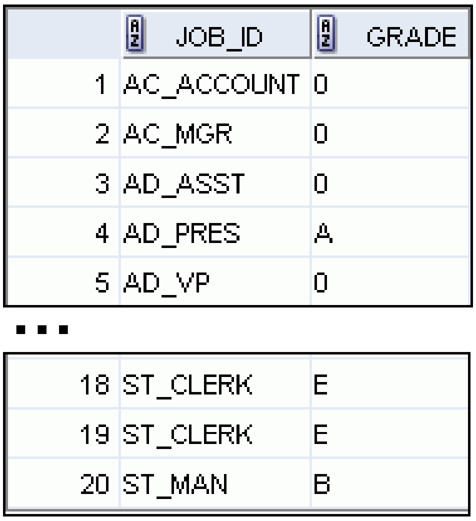
12	Zlotkey	.2
13	Abel	.3
14	Taylor	.2
15	Grant	.15
16	Whalen	No Commission
17	Hartstein	No Commission
18	Fay	No Commission
19	Higgins	No Commission
20	Gietz	No Commission

Practice 4 (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercises:

5. Using the DECODE function, write a query that displays the grade of all employees based on the value of the column JOB_ID, using the following data:

Job	*Grade*
AD_PRES	A
ST_MAN	B
IT_PROG	C
SA_REP	D
ST_CLERK	E
None of the above	0



	JOB_ID	GRADE
1	AC_ACCOUNT	0
2	AC_MGR	0
3	AD_ASST	0
4	AD_PRES	A
5	AD_VP	0

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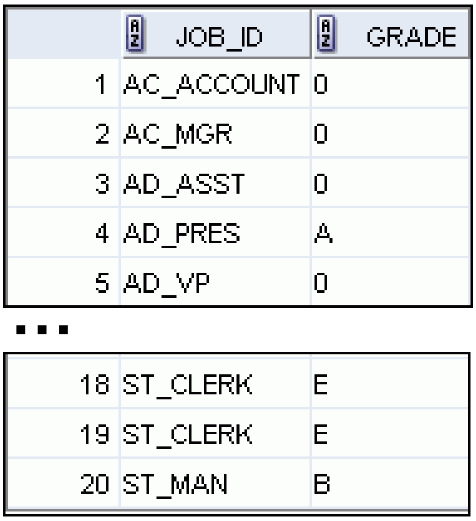
18	ST_CLERK	E
19	ST_CLERK	E
20	ST_MAN	B

6. Rewrite the statement in the preceding exercise using the CASE syntax.



	JOB_ID	GRADE
1	AC_ACCOUNT	0
2	AC_MGR	0
3	AD_ASST	0
4	AD_PRES	A
5	AD_VP	0

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18	ST_CLERK	E
19	ST_CLERK	E
20	ST_MAN	B