

T-SQL supports two “not equal to” operators: <> and !=. The former is standard and the latter is not. T-SQL supports multiple functions that convert a source value to a target type. Among them are the CAST and CONVERT functions. The former is standard

and the latter isn’t. The nonstandard CONVERT function has a style argument that CAST doesn’t support. Because CAST is standard, you should consider it your default choice for conversions. You should consider using CONVERT only when you need to rely on the style

argument.