

# DbPrepareString

This function escapes arguments in the same way as `dbQuery`, except `dbPrepareString` returns the query string instead of processing the query. This allows you to safely build complex query strings from component parts and help prevent (one class of) SQL injection.

## Syntax

```
string dbPrepareString ( element databaseConnection, string query [, var param1 [, var param2 ...]] )
```

**OOP Syntax** Help! I don't understand this!

**Method:** *connection:prepareString(...)*

## Required Arguments

- **databaseConnection:** A database connection element previously returned from `dbConnect`
- **query:** An SQL query. Positions where parameter values will be inserted are marked with a **?**

## Optional Arguments

- **paramX:** A variable number of parameters. These must be strings or numbers - it is important to make sure they are of the correct type. Also, the number of parameters passed must be equal to the number of **?** characters in the query string.

String parameters are automatically quoted and escaped as required. (If you do not want a string quoted, use **??**)

## Returns

Returns a prepare SQL query string, or *false* if an error occurred.