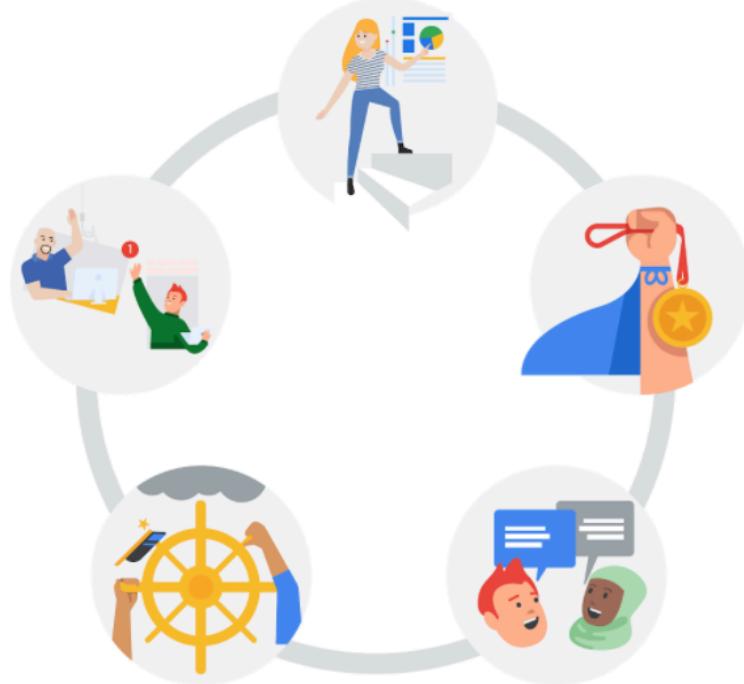# Transforming data

## What is data transformation?



In this reading, you will explore how data is transformed and the differences between wide and long data. **Data transformation** is the process of changing the data's format, structure, or values. As a data analyst, there is a good chance you will need to transform data at some point to make it easier for you to analyze it.

Data transformation usually involves:

- Adding, copying, or replicating data

- Deleting fields or records

- Standardizing the names of variables

- Renaming, moving, or combining columns in a database

- Joining one set of data with another

- Saving a file in a different format. For example, saving a spreadsheet as a comma separated values (.csv) file.