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Base SAS(R) 9.2 Procedures Guide

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Component Dictionary

- BETWEEN condition
- BTRIM function
- CALCULATED

 CASE expression
- COALESCE Function
- column-definition
- column-modifier
- column-name
- CONNECTION TO
- CONTAINS condition EXISTS condition
- IN condition
- IS condition
- joined-table
- LOWER function
- query-expression sql-expression

LIKE condition

Tests for a matching pattern.

sql-expression <NOT> LIKE sql-expression <ESCAPE character-expression>

Arguments

sql-expression

is described in sql-expression

character-expression

is an sql-expression that evaluates to a single character. The operands of *character-expression* must be character or string literals.

Note: If you use an ESCAPE clause, then the pattern-matching specification must be a quoted string or quoted concatenated string; it cannot contain column names.

Details

The LIKE condition selects rows by comparing character strings with a pattern-matching specification. It resolves to true and displays the matched strings if the left operand matches the pattern specified by the right operand.

The ESCAPE clause is used to search for literal instances of the percent (%) and underscore () characters, which are usually used for pattern matching.

Patterns for Searching

```
Patterns consist of three classes of characters:
```

```
underscore (_)
matches any single character.

percent sign (%)
matches any sequence of zero or more characters.

any other character
matches that character.
```

These patterns can appear before, after, or on both sides of characters that you want to match. The LIKE condition is case-sensitive.

The following list uses these values: Smith , Smooth , Smothers , Smart , and Smuggle .

```
'Sm%'
matches Smith , Smooth , Smothers , Smart , Smuggle .

'%th'
matches Smith , Smooth .

'S__gg%'
matches Smuggle .

'S_o'
matches a three-letter word, so it has no matches here.

'S_o%'
matches Smooth , Smothers .

'S%th'
matches Smith , Smooth .

'Z'
matches the single, uppercase character Z only, so it has no matches here.
```

Searching for Literal % and _

Because the % and _ characters have special meaning in the context of the LIKE condition, you must use the ESCAPE clause to search for these character literals in the input character string.

These examples use the values app , $a_\%$, $a__$, bbaa1 , and ba_1 .

- The condition like 'a_%' matches app, a_%, and a__, because the underscore (_) in the search pattern matches any single character (including the underscore), and the percent (%) in the search pattern matches zero or more characters, including '%' and '_'.
- The condition like 'a_%' escape '^' matches only a_%, because the escape character (^) specifies that the pattern search for a literal '9'.