TO\_NUMBER

Convert a string expression to a number

Syntax

to\_number (char [,'*format*'[, *nls\_lang*])

Key

*Char* String expression that will be converted to a number

[*Format*](http://ss64.com/ora/syntax-fmt.html) Date format to use.

*Nls\_lang* The international language to use.

You can convert a character or expression that contains a number into an actual number value.  
  
The 'format' must be a valid [Number format](http://ss64.com/ora/syntax-numfmt.html).

**Examples**

SQL> Select to\_number ('1234.64') from Dual;  
1234.64

SQL> Select to\_number ('1234.64', '9999.9') from Dual;  
1234.6

SQL> Select to\_number ('$99.64', 'L99D99') from Dual;  
99.64

# TO\_DATE

Convert an expression to a date value.

Syntax

to\_date (*char* [,'*format*'[, *nls\_lang*])

Key

*Char* String expression that will be converted to a date

[*Format*](http://ss64.com/ora/syntax-fmt.html) Date format to use.

*Nls\_lang* The international language to use.

To\_date will convert either a character string or an *expression* into a date value.  
  
The 'format' must be a valid [DATE format](http://ss64.com/ora/syntax-fmt.html): YYYY=year, MM=month, DD=Day, HH=Hour, Mi=Minute   
If no format is specified Oracle will assume the default date format has been supplied in *char*.

**Examples**

to\_date ('29-Oct-09', 'DD-Mon-YY')

to\_date ('10/29/09', 'MM/DD/YY')

to\_date ('120109', 'MMDDYY')

to\_date ('29-Oct-09', 'DD-Mon-YY HH: MI: SS’)

to\_date ('Oct/29/09', 'Mon/DD/YY HH: MI: SS’)

to\_date ('October.29.2009', 'Month.DD.YYYY HH: MI: SS’)