Punctuation and Character Literals in Date Format Models You can also include these characters in a date format model:

- Punctuation such as hyphens, slashes, commas, periods, and colons
- Character literals, enclosed in double quotation marks

These characters appear in the return value in the same location as they appear in the format model.

Table 2–15 Datetime Format Elements

Element	Specify in TO_* datetime functions?[a]	Meaning

`-`
`/`
`,`
`.`
`;`
`:`
`"text"`
	Yes	Punctuation and quoted text is reproduced in the result.

`AD` `A.D.`	Yes	AD indicator with or without periods.
`AM` `A.M.`	Yes	Meridian indicator with or without periods.
`BC` `B.C.`	Yes	BC indicator with or without periods.
`CC` `SCC`	No	Century. ■ If the last 2 digits of a 4-digit year are between 01 and 99 (inclusive), then the century is one greater than the first 2 digits of that year. ■ If the last 2 digits of a 4-digit year are 00, then the century is the same as the first 2 digits of that year. For example, 2002 returns 21; 2000 returns 20.
`D`	Yes	Day of week (1-7).

[a] The `TO_*` datetime functions are `TO_CHAR`, `TO_DATE`, `TO_TIMESTAMP`, `TO_TIMESTAMP_TZ`, `TO_YMINTERVAL`, and `TO_DSINTERVAL`.

Table 2–15 (Cont.) Datetime Format Elements

Element	Specify in TO_* datetime functions?[a]	Meaning
DAY	Yes	Name of day, padded with blanks to length of 9 characters.
DD	Yes	Day of month (1-31).
DDD	Yes	Day of year (1-366).
DY	Yes	Abbreviated name of day.
E	No	Abbreviated era name (Japanese Imperial, ROC Official, and Thai Buddha calendars).
EE	No	Full era name (Japanese Imperial, ROC Official, and Thai Buddha calendars).
FF [1..9]	Yes	Fractional seconds; no radix character is printed (use the X format element to add the radix character). Use the numbers 1 to 9 after FF to specify the number of digits in the fractional second portion of the datetime value returned. If you do not specify a digit, then Oracle uses the precision specified for the datetime datatype or the datatype's default precision. **Examples:** 'HH:MI:SS.FF' SELECT TO_CHAR(SYSTIMESTAMP, 'SS.FF3') from dual;
HH	Yes	Hour of day (1-12).
HH12	No	Hour of day (1-12).
HH24	Yes	Hour of day (0-23).
IW	No	Week of year (1-52 or 1-53) based on the ISO standard.
IYY IY I	No	Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of ISO year.
IYYY	No	4-digit year based on the ISO standard.

[a] The TO_* datetime functions are TO_CHAR, TO_DATE, TO_TIMESTAMP, TO_TIMESTAMP_TZ, TO_YMINTERVAL, and TO_DSINTERVAL.

Table 2–15 (Cont.) Datetime Format Elements

Element	Specify in TO_* datetime functions?[a]	Meaning
J	Yes	Julian day; the number of days since January 1, 4712 BC. Number specified with 'J' must be integers.
MI	Yes	Minute (0-59).
MM	Yes	Month (01-12; JAN = 01).
MON	Yes	Abbreviated name of month.
MONTH	Yes	Name of month, padded with blanks to length of 9 characters.
PM P.M.	No	Meridian indicator with or without periods.
Q	No	Quarter of year (1, 2, 3, 4; JAN-MAR = 1).
RM	Yes	Roman numeral month (I-XII; JAN = I).
RR	Yes	Lets you store 20th century dates in the 21st century using only two digits. See "The RR Date Format Element" on page 2-73 for detailed information.
RRRR	Yes	Round year. Accepts either 4-digit or 2-digit input. If 2-digit, provides the same return as RR. If you don't want this functionality, then simply enter the 4-digit year.
SS	Yes	Second (0-59).
SSSSS	Yes	Seconds past midnight (0-86399).
TZD	Yes	Daylight savings information. The TZD value is an abbreviated time zone string with daylight savings information. It must correspond with the region specified in TZR. **Example:** PST (for US / Pacific standard time); PDT (for US / Pacific daylight time).
TZH	Yes	Time zone hour. (See TZM format element.) **Example:** 'HH:MI:SS.FFTZH:TZM'.

[a] The TO_* datetime functions are TO_CHAR, TO_DATE, TO_TIMESTAMP, TO_TIMESTAMP_TZ, TO_YMINTERVAL, and TO_DSINTERVAL.

Table 2–15 (Cont.) Datetime Format Elements

Element	Specify in TO_* datetime functions?[a]	Meaning
TZM	Yes	Time zone minute. (See TZH format element.) **Example:** 'HH:MI:SS.FFTZH:TZM'.
TZR	Yes	Time zone region information. The value must be one of the time zone regions supported in the database. **Example:** US/Pacific
WW	No	Week of year (1-53) where week 1 starts on the first day of the year and continues to the seventh day of the year.
W	No	Week of month (1-5) where week 1 starts on the first day of the month and ends on the seventh.
X	Yes	Local radix character. **Example:** 'HH:MI:SSXFF'.
Y,YYY	Yes	Year with comma in this position.
YEAR SYEAR	No	Year, spelled out; "S" prefixes BC dates with "-".
YYYY SYYYY	Yes	4-digit year; "S" prefixes BC dates with "-".
YYY YY Y	Yes	Last 3, 2, or 1 digit(s) of year.

[a] The TO_* datetime functions are TO_CHAR, TO_DATE, TO_TIMESTAMP, TO_TIMESTAMP_TZ, TO_YMINTERVAL, and TO_DSINTERVAL.

Oracle returns an error if an alphanumeric character is found in the date string where punctuation character is found in the format string. For example:

```
TO_CHAR (TO_DATE('0297','MM/YY'), 'MM/YY')
```

returns an error.