

SQL Server: CASE WHEN OR THEN ELSE END => the OR is not supported

Asked 8 years, 5 months ago Active 2 months ago Viewed 3.0m times

▲ The OR in the WHEN clause of a CASE statement is not supported. How can I do this?

551



110

```
CASE ebv.db_no
  WHEN 22978 OR 23218 OR 23219 THEN 'WECS 9500'
  ELSE 'WECS 9520'
END as wecs_system
```

[sql](#) [sql-server](#) [tsql](#) [case](#) [case-when](#)

edited Aug 10 '16 at 13:12



[Somnath Muluk](#)

35.9k 18 183 208

asked Mar 30 '11 at 14:45



[Werner](#)

2,820 4 13 11

10 Answers

▲ That format requires you to use either:

1048



```
CASE ebv.db_no
  WHEN 22978 THEN 'WECS 9500'
  WHEN 23218 THEN 'WECS 9500'
  WHEN 23219 THEN 'WECS 9500'
  ELSE 'WECS 9520'
END as wecs_system
```

Otherwise, use:

CASE

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answered Mar 30 '11 at 14:47

**OMG Ponies****269k** 65 459 471

9 For the second case, why does only 'IN' work and not '='? – [Han](#) Jun 13 '16 at 14:53

24 = would work if you were comparing to a single value. However, (22978, 23218, 23219) is an array and IN is necessary to match only one of the values. – [LdTrigger](#) Nov 24 '16 at 14:49

1 This really stinks- t-sql can't handle an "or" in a case statement. Come on Microsoft time to grow up from the toy database status. – [Rich Bianco](#) Jan 11 '18 at 17:46

1 "can't handle an "or" in a case statement".. hmmm.... i dont think ive ever seen a switch accept an "or" in any language. would seem to defeat the purpose of a switch. what languages accept "or" in a case? – [Heriberto Lugo](#) Jan 24 '18 at 15:32

2 @Heriberto Lugo I don't know how many language you know but there are at least a few. VB.NET and C# can use them with simple comma separation. It doesn't defeat anything as it will save you from repeating the same code in multiple case for nothing. – [Johnny Prescott](#) Mar 1 '18 at 14:49

242

CASE

```
WHEN ebv.db_no = 22978 OR
      ebv.db_no = 23218 OR
      ebv.db_no = 23219
```

```
THEN 'WECS 9500'
```

```
ELSE 'WECS 9520'
```

```
END as wecs_system
```

edited Apr 21 '14 at 7:58

**Amarnath
Balasubramanian****7,398** 6 27 53

answered Apr 5 '12 at 3:31

**Darren****2,429** 1 9 2

38 upvoted - this response does add value. It more closely fits the OP's question, and if you want to nest some CASE-WHENS this syntax reduces the necessary code considerably. – [Matt Kemp](#) Jun 7 '12 at 4:00

1 @Leigh I appreciate this answer. It is nice to have all the different formats in one thread and makes it more usable as a reference. – [Jason Wheeler](#) Apr

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make valid points. If the question was "what is the correct syntax using OR *only*", this provides an answer. However, if "reducing the syntax necessary" was the goal, the [accepted response](#) is more compact. BTW, it is not a slam on Darren's answer, which is perfectly valid. Just my \$0.02 :) – Leigh Apr 25 '14 at 13:24

2 using IN keyword is much better way – Sagar Naliyapara Apr 25 '17 at 11:38



56



```
CASE WHEN ebv.db_no IN (22978, 23218, 23219) THEN 'WECS 9500'
ELSE 'WECS 9520'
END as wecs_system
```

answered Mar 30 '11 at 14:47



[Cade Roux](#)

74.6k 37 156 255



51



You can use one of the expressions that WHEN has, but you cannot mix both of them.

1. WHEN when_expression

Is a simple expression to which input_expression is compared when the simple CASE format is used. when_expression is any valid expression. The data types of input_expression and each when_expression must be the same or must be an implicit conversion.

2. WHEN Boolean_expression

Is the Boolean expression evaluated when using the searched CASE format. Boolean_expression is any valid Boolean expression.

You could program:

1.

```
CASE ProductLine
  WHEN 'R' THEN 'Road'
  WHEN 'M' THEN 'Mountain'
  WHEN 'T' THEN 'Touring'
  WHEN 'S' THEN 'Other sale items'
  ELSE 'Not for sale'
```

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CASE

```

WHEN ListPrice = 0 THEN 'Mfg item - not for resale'
WHEN ListPrice < 50 THEN 'Under $50'
WHEN ListPrice >= 50 and ListPrice < 250 THEN 'Under $250'
WHEN ListPrice >= 250 and ListPrice < 1000 THEN 'Under $1000'
ELSE 'Over $1000'
END

```

But in any case you can expect that the variable ranking is going to be compared in a boolean expression.

See [CASE \(Transact-SQL\)](#) (MSDN).

edited Jan 14 '17 at 9:41



Peter Mortensen

14.4k 19 88 117

answered Jul 9 '14 at 14:42



Alfapulus

1,366 1 14 26

3 plus one: I was not aware of this syntax with individual boolean expressions – [Reversed Engineer](#) Jul 16 '15 at 18:14



There are already a lot of answers with respect to `CASE`. I will explain when and how to use `CASE`.

37

You can use CASE expressions anywhere in the SQL queries. CASE expressions can be used within the SELECT statement, WHERE clauses, Order by clause, HAVING clauses, Insert, UPDATE and DELETE statements.



A CASE expression has the following two formats:

1. Simple CASE expression

```

CASE expression
WHEN expression1 THEN Result1
WHEN expression2 THEN Result2
ELSE ResultN
END

```

This compares an expression to a set of simple expressions to find the result. This expression compares an expression to the expression in each WHEN clause for equivalency. If the expression within the WHEN clause is matched, the expression in the THEN clause will be returned

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This is where the OP's question is falling. 22978 OR 23218 OR 23219 will not get a value equal to the expression i.e. ebv.db_no. That's why it is giving an error. The data types of input_expression and each when_expression must be the same or must be an implicit conversion.

2. Searched CASE expressions

```
CASE
WHEN Boolean_expression1 THEN Result1
WHEN Boolean_expression2 THEN Result2
ELSE ResultN
END
```

This expression evaluates a set of boolean expressions to find the result. This expression allows comparison operators, and logical operators AND/OR with in each Boolean expression.

1.SELECT statement with CASE expressions

--Simple CASE expression:

```
SELECT FirstName, State=(CASE StateCode
WHEN 'MP' THEN 'Madhya Pradesh'
WHEN 'UP' THEN 'Uttar Pradesh'
WHEN 'DL' THEN 'Delhi'
ELSE NULL
END), PayRate
FROM dbo.Customer
```

-- Searched CASE expression:

```
SELECT FirstName,State=(CASE
WHEN StateCode = 'MP' THEN 'Madhya Pradesh'
WHEN StateCode = 'UP' THEN 'Uttar Pradesh'
WHEN StateCode = 'DL' THEN 'Delhi'
ELSE NULL
END), PayRate
FROM dbo.Customer
```

2.Update statement with CASE expression

-- Simple CASE expression:

```
UPDATE Customer
SET StateCode = CASE StateCode
WHEN 'MP' THEN 'Madhya Pradesh'
```

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END

-- Simple CASE expression:

```
UPDATE Customer
SET StateCode = CASE
  WHEN StateCode = 'MP' THEN 'Madhya Pradesh'
  WHEN StateCode = 'UP' THEN 'Uttar Pradesh'
  WHEN StateCode = 'DL' THEN 'Delhi'
  ELSE NULL
END
```

3.ORDER BY clause with CASE expressions

-- Simple CASE expression:

```
SELECT * FROM dbo.Customer
ORDER BY
  CASE Gender WHEN 'M' THEN FirstName END Desc,
  CASE Gender WHEN 'F' THEN LastName END ASC
```

-- Searched CASE expression:

```
SELECT * FROM dbo.Customer
ORDER BY
  CASE WHEN Gender='M' THEN FirstName END Desc,
  CASE WHEN Gender='F' THEN LastName END ASC
```

4.Having Clause with CASE expression

-- Simple CASE expression:

```
SELECT FirstName ,StateCode,Gender, Total=MAX(PayRate)
FROM dbo.Customer
GROUP BY StateCode,Gender,FirstName
HAVING (MAX(CASE Gender WHEN 'M'
  THEN PayRate
  ELSE NULL END) > 180.00
OR MAX(CASE Gender WHEN 'F'
  THEN PayRate
  ELSE NULL END) > 170.00)
```

-- Searched CASE expression:

```
SELECT FirstName ,StateCode,Gender, Total=MAX(PayRate)
FROM dbo.Customer
GROUP BY StateCode,Gender,FirstName
HAVING (MAX(CASE WHEN Gender = 'M'
```

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```
THEN PayRate
ELSE NULL END) > 170.00)
```

Hope this use cases will help someone in future.

[Source](#)

edited Jan 14 '17 at 14:23



Peter Mortensen

14.4k 19 88 117

answered Aug 10 '16 at 13:12



Somnath Muluk

35.9k 18 183 208

1 Helped me dearly... – Morgs Feb 7 '17 at 21:27

Try

34

```
CASE WHEN ebv.db_no IN (22978,23218,23219) THEN 'WECS 9500' ELSE 'WECS 9520' END
```

edited Sep 22 '14 at 8:29



davmos

7,519 4 32 40

answered Mar 30 '11 at 14:46



JNK

52.5k 12 105 126

28

```
SELECT
  Store_Name,
CASE Store_Name
  WHEN 'Los Angeles' THEN Sales * 2
  WHEN 'San Diego' THEN Sales * 1.5
  ELSE Sales
END AS "New Sales",
  Txn_Date
FROM Store_Information;
```

edited Oct 13 '15 at 11:24



Kristian

answered Feb 25 '15 at 12:43



Archu

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-
- 1 add some extra info – [Pra Jazz](#) Feb 25 '15 at 12:48
-
- 1 Only answer with "full" query, thanks :) – [Alexander Derck](#) Mar 14 '16 at 8:39
-
- 1 Upvoting because of the inclusion of an ELSE Sales field, which returns the default value if not else included within a case statement, appropriate for business queries. – [FoxDeploy](#) Mar 20 '18 at 17:09
-

3

```
select id,phno,case gender
when 'G' then 'M'
when 'L' then 'F'
else
'No gender'
end
as gender
from contacts
```

answered Jan 15 '18 at 5:33



[Debendra Dash](#)

2,681 22 23

Why do you not explain what is being done here? It is important to give complete answers with Explanations as some newbies might need that in order to understand how this solves the issue – [Gerhard Barnard](#) Jan 15 '18 at 6:09

3

```
UPDATE table_name
SET column_name=CASE
WHEN column_name in ('value1', 'value2',.....)
THEN 'update_value'
WHEN column_name in ('value1', 'value2',.....)
THEN 'update_value'
END
```

table_name = The name of table on which you want to perform operation.

column_name = The name of Column/Field of which value you want to set.

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edited Jun 15 at 9:36

answered Aug 19 '15 at 11:12



Anand agrawal

197 2 16

11 While this code may solve the OP's problem, a few words of explanation would be even more helpful to future readers. – Thom Aug 19 '15 at 12:03



-5



```
Select s.stock_code,s.stock_desc,s.stock_desc_ar,  
mc.category_name,s.sel_price,  
case when s.allow_discount=0 then 'Non Promotional Item' else 'Prmotional  
item' end 'Promotion'  
From tbl_stock s inner join tbl_stock_category c on s.stock_id=c.stock_id  
inner join tbl_category mc on c.category_id=mc.category_id  
where mc.category_id=2 and s.isSerialBased=0
```

answered Nov 30 '16 at 20:48



Mohammad Shahnawaz

11

1 This answer looks like it has nothing to do with the question. – LarsTech Nov 30 '16 at 21:14

4 Please do not post bare code, also provide an explanation of what your code is doing. – Jonathan Mee Nov 30 '16 at 21:33