Replacing Missing Values

The COALESCE function enables you to replace missing values in a column with a new value that you specify.

For example, the following query replaces missing values in the Score1 column in the score_data table with the numerical value **-7, and** replaces missing values in the Gender column in the score_data table with the character value 'Missing'.

proc sql;

select Name, coalesce(score1, -7) as score1, coalesce(gender, 'Missing') as gender

from score_data;

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The following **CASE expression** shows another way to perform the same replacement of missing values. However, the COALESCE function requires fewer lines of code to obtain the same results:

```
proc sql;
select Name, case
            when Gender = ' ' then 'Missing'
            else Gender
         end as Gender
from score_data;
```