The FORMAT() function formats a value with the specified format and optional culture. Use the FORMAT() function to format date/time values and number values. For general data type conversions, use CAST() or CONVERT().

### FORMAT (value, format [, culture])

Value: Required. The value to be formatted.  
Format: Required. The expected format pattern.  
Culture: Optional.

**Examples:**

1. Simple FORMAT examples

SELECT FORMAT( GETDATE(), 'MMM') AS 'Month', -- Returns Sep

FORMAT( GETDATE(), 'yyyy') AS 'Year'; -- Returns 2019

SELECT FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'dd/MM/yyyy ') AS 'Date', --Returns 18/09/2019

FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'dddd, MMMM, yyyy') AS 'Date1',

--Returns Wednesday, September, 2019

FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'MMM dd yyyy') AS 'date2', --Returns Sep 18 2019

FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'MM.dd.yy') AS 'date3',--Returns 09.18.19

FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'MM-dd-yy') AS 'date4',--Returns 09-18-19

FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'dd/MM/yyyy, hh:mm:ss ') AS 'Datetime'

--Returns 18/09/2019, 01:31:07

SELECT FORMAT (GETDATE(), 'hh:mm:ss tt') AS 'Time';

--Returns 01:31:07 PM

1. FORMAT examples with Numeric data and custom

SELECT FORMAT(1, 'N') AS 'Standard Numeric Format Specifier', --Returns 1.00

FORMAT(1, 'N1') AS 'One Decimal'; --returns 1.0

SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C') AS 'Currency value'; --returns $1.00

SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C', 'fr-FR') AS France, --returns 1,00 €

FORMAT(1, 'C', 'th-TH') AS Thailand, --returns ฿1.00

FORMAT(1, 'C', 'ja-JP') AS Japan;--Returns ¥1

SELECT FORMAT(9999999999, '##-##-#####') AS 'SSNFormat';

--returns 999-99-99999

1. FORMAT examples with StockData!

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate, 'D') AS 'OurDate'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate, 'd') AS 'OurDate'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate,'d','en-gb') AS 'Great Britain English Result'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate,'d','de-de' ) AS 'German Result'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate,'d','zh-cn' ) AS 'Simplified Chinese (PRC) Result'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT TickerSymbol,FORMAT(TradeDate,'D','zh-cn' ) AS 'Simplified Chinese (PRC) Result'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT FORMAT(ST\_Close, 'C', 'en-us') AS 'InDollars'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

SELECT FORMAT(ST\_Close, 'c4', 'en-gb') AS 'InPounds'

FROM StockData

WHERE TickerSymbol = 'AAPL' AND TradeDate = '6/3/2016';

**Reference:**

[FORMAT (Transact-SQL)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2012/hh213505(v=sql.110))

[How to Format Numbers in SQL Server](https://database.guide/how-to-format-numbers-in-sql-server/)