



Database Programming with SQL 5-1: Conversion Functions Practice Activities

Objectives

· Provide an example of an explicit data-type conversion and an implicit data-type conversion

· Explain why it is important, from a business perspective, for a language to have built-in data-conversion capabilities

· Construct a SQL query that correctly applies TO\_CHAR, TO\_NUMBER, and TO\_DATE single-row functions to produce a desired result

· Apply the appropriate date and/or character format model to produce a desired output

· Explain and apply the use of YY and RR to return the correct year as stored in the database

Vocabulary

Identify the vocabulary word for each definition below.

Used for text and character data of fixed length, including numbers, dashes, and special characters. CHAR

Used to remove padded blanks or to suppress leading zeros

FM

Functions that convert a value from one datatype to another.

Conversion function

Used to store variable-length numeric data. number

Used for character data of variable length, including numbers, special characters, and dashes. Varchar2

Used for date and time values. date

Converts dates or numbers to character strings with optional formatting to\_char

Century value depends on the specified year and the last two digits of the current year RR

Converts a character string containing digits to a number with optional formatting to\_number

Numeric day of the month DD

Converts a character string representing a date to a date value with optional formatting TO\_DATE

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Try It / Solve It

In each of the following exercises, feel free to use labels for the converted column to make the output more readable.

1. List the last names and birthdays of Global Fast Food Employees. Convert the birth dates to character data in the Month DD, YYYY format. Suppress any leading zeros.

select last\_name, to\_char(birthdate, 'Month, fmDD YYYY')

from f\_staffs

2. Convert January 3, 04, to the default date format 03-Jan-2004.

select to\_date('January 3, 04','Month DD, YY')

from dual

3. Format a query from the Global Fast Foods f\_promotional\_menus table to print out the start\_date of promotional code 110 as: The promotion began on the tenth of February 2004.

SELECT 'The promotion began on the ' || TO\_CHAR(start\_date, 'ddthsp "of" Month YYYY') as "Output"

from f\_promotional\_menus

where code = 110;

4. Convert today’s date to a format such as: “Today is the Twentieth of March, Two Thousand Four”

SELECT 'Today is the ' || TO\_CHAR(sysdate, 'ddthsp "of" Month yyyysp') as "Output"

from dual

5. List the ID, name, and salary for all Global Fast Foods employees. Display salary with a $ sign and two decimal places.

select ID, First\_name || ' ' || Last\_name as name, to\_char(salary, '$999999.99')

from f\_staffs

6. Ellen Abel is an employee who has received a $2,000 raise. Display her first name and last name, her current salary, and her new salary. Display both salaries with a $ and two decimal places. Label her new salary column AS New Salary.

SELECT first\_name, last\_name, TO\_CHAR( salary, '$999999.99') as "Old Salary", TO\_CHAR( salary + 2000 , '$9999999.99') as "New Salary"

FROM employees

WHERE first\_name = 'Ellen' AND last\_name = 'Abel' ;

7. On what day of the week and date did Global Fast Foods’ promotional code 110 Valentine’s Special begin?

select to\_char(start\_date, 'fmdd-Mon-YYYY(Day)')

from f\_promotional\_menus

where code = 110;

8. Create one query that will convert 25-Dec-2004 into each of the following (you will have to convert 25-Dec-2004 to a date and then to character data):

December 25th, 2004 DECEMBER 25TH, 2004 25th december, 2004

select to\_char(to\_date('25-dec-2004', 'dd-mon-yyyy'), 'Month ddth, yyyy') var1,

to\_char(to\_date('25-dec-2004', 'dd-mon-yyyy'), 'MONTH DDTH, yyyy') var2,

to\_char(to\_date('25-dec-2004', 'dd-mon-yyyy'), 'ddth month, yyyy') var3

from dual

9. Create a query that will format the DJs on Demand d\_packages columns, low-range and high-range package costs, in the format $2500.00.

select to\_char(low\_range, '$9999.99'), to\_char(high\_range, '$99999.99')

from d\_packages

10.Convert JUNE192004 to a date using the fx format model.

select to\_date('JUNE192004', 'fxMONTHDDYYYY') conversion

from dual

11.What is the distinction between implicit and explicit datatype conversion? Give an example of each.

12.Why is it important from a business perspective to have datatype conversions?

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