

We all know that Oracle stores dates as DD-MON-YY and hence it stores 6/18/2002 as 18-JUN-02. In order to enter a date value into your table using “insert into” you will use:

```
SQL> insert into <table name> values (... , '18-JUN-02',...);
```

If you wish to enter a date value in your own format you will need to use the function “TO_DATE”

```
SQL> insert into <table name> values (... , TO_DATE('6/18/2002','MM/DD/YYYY'), ...);
```

Where 'MM/DD/YYYY' is the date mask.

If you want to format the data retrieved from the database before it is displayed, you will need to use the “TO_CHAR” function.

```
SQL> select TO_CHAR(<date field>, 'MM/DD/YYYY') from <table name>;
```

“TO_CHAR” could also be used to format currency!