

Number to Character in SPSS¹

The “string” function can be used to create a character or string variable from a number variable in SPSS. Following are several examples. The key commands are in bold. Before issuing the compute command that includes the string function, it is necessary to initialize the variable with a “string” command, providing information about the format. Note that the variable “nvx” is not successfully created because the number variable had a column width of 8, and only seven characters were specified for the string. The format of a variable can be determined by using the “display dictionary” command. Be sure to check your results!

```
* numchar.sps .
* Create string variable from a number.
* Patty Glynn, 10/11/01 .

DATA LIST list / v1 .
BEGIN DATA .
1
2
3
end data .
string nv0 nv2 (a8) nvx (a7) .
compute nv0 = string(v1,f8) .
compute nv2 = string(v1,f8.2) .
compute nvx = string(v1,f8) .
execute .
list var = all .
display dictionary .
```

ABBREVIATED RESULTS:

V1	NV0	NV2	NVX
1.00	1	1.00	
2.00	2	2.00	
3.00	3	3.00	

Number of cases read: 3 Number of cases listed: 3

File Information

Name	Position
V1	1
Measurement Level: Scale Column Width: 8 Alignment: Right	
NV0	2
Measurement Level: Nominal Column Width: 8 Alignment: Left	
NV2	3
Measurement Level: Nominal Column Width: 8 Alignment: Left	
NVX	4
Measurement Level: Nominal Column Width: 8 Alignment: Left	

¹Prepared by Patty Glynn, University of Washington. October 11, 2001 C:\all\help\helpnew\numchar.wpd