The “string” function can be used 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  1.00  1.00
  2.00  2.00  2.00
  3.00  3.00  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

\[\text{Prepared by Patty Glynn, University of Washington. October 11, 2001 C:\all\help\helpnew\numchar.wpd}\]