

# How can the ANYDIGIT function be used in SAS?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 23, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can the ANYDIGIT function be used in SAS?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147933>

The ANYDIGIT function in SAS is a helpful tool for identifying the first numeric character in a given string. It can be utilized in various ways, such as cleaning up data by removing non-numeric characters or extracting specific numbers from a larger string. This function can also be used in conditional statements or data transformations to perform specific actions based on the presence or absence of numeric characters in a string. Overall, the ANYDIGIT function is a valuable asset in data manipulation and analysis tasks in SAS.

## Use the ANYDIGIT Function in SAS

**You can use the ANYDIGIT function in SAS to return the position of the first digit in a given string.**

**This function uses the following basic syntax:**

**ANYDIGIT(expression, )**

**where:**

**expression:** The string to search  
**start (optional):** The starting position to search from.

**The following example shows how to use this function in practice.**

### **Example: Using the ANYDIGIT Function in SAS**

**Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that contains information about various employees at some company:**

```
/*create dataset*/  
data my_data;  
input employeeID $ sales;  
datalines;  
54AAF 23  
0009A 38  
BC18B 40  
09H30 12  
04429 65  
B1300 90  
B1700 75  
RRHHJ 35  
0Y009 40  
C6500 23  
;  
run;  
  
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=my_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales
1	54AAF	23
2	0009A	38
3	BC18B	40
4	09H30	12
5	04429	65
6	B1300	90
7	B1700	75
8	RRHHJ	35
9	0Y009	40
10	C6500	23

We can use the ANYDIGIT function to search for the position of the first digit in the employeeID column:

```
/*create new dataset*/  
data new_data;  
set my_data;  
firstDigit = anydigit(employeeID);  
run;
```

```
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales	firstDigit
1	54AAF	23	1
2	0009A	38	1
3	BC18B	40	3
4	09H30	12	1
5	04429	65	1
6	B1300	90	2
7	B1700	75	2
8	RRHHJ	35	0
9	0Y009	40	1
10	C6500	23	2

The new column called firstDigit displays the position of the first occurrence of any digit in the employeeID column.

For example:

The first digit in 54AAF is in position 1. The first digit in 0009A is in position 1. The first digit in BC18B is in position 3.

And so on.

We can also use the start argument within the ANYDIGIT function to specify a starting position to search from.

For example, we can use the following code to search for the position of the first digit in the employeeID column *starting from position 3*:

```
/*create new dataset*/  
data new_data;  
set my_data;  
firstDigit = anydigit(employeeID, 3);  
run;
```

```
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales	firstDigit
1	54AAF	23	0
2	0009A	38	3
3	BC18B	40	3
4	09H30	12	4
5	04429	65	3
6	B1300	90	3
7	B1700	75	3
8	RRHHJ	35	0
9	0Y009	40	3
10	C6500	23	3

**Notice that employeeID values that only contain an**

**alphabetical character in the first two positions now receive a value of 0 in the firstDigit column since the search for digits now starts at position 3.**

**The following tutorials explain how to use other common functions in SAS:**

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM