

# How to Easily Use SELECT-WHEN Statements in SAS

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November 29, 2025

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to Easily Use SELECT-WHEN Statements in SAS*.  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=101829>

SELECT-WHEN is a SAS statement used to control the flow of execution of a program. It is used to conditionally execute certain instructions or statements only if the specified condition is true. It is often used in combination with the IF-THEN statement to evaluate multiple conditions in a program. It is useful in situations where you want to select a certain set of data values based on a certain condition.

You can use a **SELECT-WHEN** statement in SAS to assign values to a new variable based on the values of an existing categorical variable in a dataset.

This statement uses the following basic syntax:

```
data new_data;  
set my_data;  
select (Existing_Column);  
when ('value1') New_Column=1;  
when ('value2') New_Column=2;  
when ('value3') New_Column=3;  
otherwise New_Column=4;  
end;  
run;
```

This syntax produces a new column called **New\_Column** whose values are dependent on the values in **Existing\_Column**.

The following example shows how to use a **SELECT-WHEN** statement in practice.

### Example: SELECT-WHEN in SAS

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that contains information about various basketball players:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data my_data;  
input team $ rating $ points;  
datalines;  
Mavs Great 22  
Mavs Good 29  
Mavs OK 15  
Mavs Bad 8  
Spurs Good 30
```

**Spurs OK 15**

**Spurs OK 20**

**Spurs Bad 7**

;

**run;**

*/\*view dataset\*/*

proc print data=my\_data;

Obs	team	rating	points
1	Mavs	Great	22
2	Mavs	Good	29
3	Mavs	OK	15
4	Mavs	Bad	8
5	Spurs	Good	30
6	Spurs	OK	15
7	Spurs	OK	20
8	Spurs	Bad	7

We can use the following **SELECT-WHEN** statement to create a new variable called **Player\_Status** whose values depend on the value in the **rating** column:

*/\*create new dataset with Player\_Status column\*/*

**data new\_data;**

**set my\_data;**

**select (rating);**

**when ('Great') Player\_Status=1;**

**when ('Good') Player\_Status=2;**

**when ('OK') Player\_Status=3;**

**otherwise Player\_Status=4;**

**end;**

**run;**

*/\*view new dataset\*/*

proc print data=new\_data;

Obs	team	rating	points	Player_Status
1	Mavs	Great	22	1
2	Mavs	Good	29	2
3	Mavs	OK	15	3
4	Mavs	Bad	8	4
5	Spurs	Good	30	2
6	Spurs	OK	15	3
7	Spurs	OK	20	3
8	Spurs	Bad	7	4

Here is how the values were generated in the new **Player\_Status** column:

If **rating** was equal to "Great" then **Player\_Status** was assigned **1**.

If **rating** was equal to "Good" then **Player\_Status** was assigned **2**.

If **rating** was equal to "OK" then **Player\_Status** was assigned **3**.

If **rating** was not equal to any of the previously specified values then **Player\_Status** was assigned **4**.

**Note:** You can find the complete documentation for the **SELECT** statement in SAS .

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: