

# What are Label Variables in SAS and can you provide an example?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Label variables in SAS refer to the practice of assigning descriptive names or labels to variables in a data set. These labels provide additional information and context about the data, making it easier to understand and analyze. For example, a variable labeled "Age" would be more informative than a variable simply named "A". Label variables can also be used to categorize data, such as using "Male" or "Female" labels for a gender variable. This allows for more meaningful and organized data analysis.

## Label Variables in SAS (With Example)

You can use the label function in SAS to provide label names to variables in a dataset.

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

Example: Label Variables in SAS

Suppose we create the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data data1;  
input ID $ x y;  
datalines;  
Mavs 99 21  
Spurs 93 18  
Rockets 88 27  
Thunder 91 29  
Warriors 104 40
```

## Cavs 93 30

```
;
```

```
run;
```

```
/*view contents of dataset*/
```

```
proc contents data=data1;
```

```
run;
```

#	Variable	Type	Len
1	ID	Char	8
2	x	Num	8
3	y	Num	8

The output of the `proc contents` function shows us the name, data type, and length of each of the three variables in our dataset.

However, it might not be obvious what `ID`, `x`, and `y` actually refer to in the dataset.

Fortunately, we can use the `label` function when creating the dataset to provide specific labels for each variable:

```
/*create dataset*/
```

```
data data1;
input ID $ x y;
label ID = 'Team' x = 'Points' y = 'Rebounds';
datalines;
Mavs 99 21
Spurs 93 18
Rockets 88 27
Thunder 91 29
Warriors 104 40
Cavs 93 30
;
run;

/*view contents of dataset*/
proc contentsdata=data1;
run;
```

Alphabetic List of Variables and Attributes

#	Variable	Type	Len	Label
1	ID	Char	8	Team
2	x	Num	8	Points
3	y	Num	8	Rebounds

Notice that the output of proc contents now contains an extra column called label, which contains the labels for

**the three variables that we specified.**

### **Additional Resources**

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

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM