

Advanced Queries - Case



This function allows the Developer to create 'if' statements within the SQL statement ... they should be surrounded by brackets for clarity and return a value ...

(case when <condition> then <value> else <value> end)

```
select (case when to_char(sysdate, 'HH24') < 12 then 'AM'  
        else 'PM'  
        end) as "Time of Day"  
from sys.dual;
```

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The when condition can be repeated as many times as necessary
(maximum 128 times !!)

```
select (case when <column_name> = <value> then <value>  
         when <column_name> = <value> then <value>  
         when <column_name> = <value> then <value>  
         else <value>  
         end)  
from <table_name>;
```

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Case can also be nested ...

```
select (case when to_char(sysdate,'HH24') < 12 then 'Morning'
           else (case when to_char(sysdate,'HH24') between 12 and 18
                       then 'Afternoon'
                       else 'Evening'
                       end)
           end)
from sys.dual;
```

In addition, a sub-query can be included in the case statement ...

```
select (case when (select <column_name> from <table_name>) in ('A') then <value>
           else <value>
           end)
from <table_name>;
```

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Case can also be included in where and order clauses ...

```
select <column_name> from <table_name>  
order by (case when <column_name> = 'G' then 1  
           when <column_name> = 'B' then 3  
           when <column_name> = 'D' then 2  
end);
```