

# DECODE()

Available in: [DSQL](#), [PSQL](#)

Added in: 2.1

## Description

**DECODE** is a shortcut for the so-called "[simple CASE](#)" construct, in which a given expression is compared to a number of other expressions until a match is found. The result is determined by the value listed after the matching expression. If no match is found, the default result is returned, if present. Otherwise, **NULL** is returned.

*Result type:* Varies

## Syntax

```
DECODE ( <test-expr>,  
        <expr>, result  
        [, <expr>, result ...]  
        [, defaultresult] )
```

The equivalent CASE construct:

```
CASE <test-expr>  
  WHEN <expr> THEN result  
  [WHEN <expr> THEN result ...]  
  [ELSE defaultresult]  
END
```

**Caution:** Matching is done with the "=" operator, so if <test-expr> is **NULL**, it won't match any of the <expr>s, not even those that are **NULL**.

## Example

```
select name,  
       age,  
       decode( upper(sex),  
              'M', 'Male',  
              'F', 'Female',  
              'Unknown' ),  
       religion  
from people
```

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