



## How To Write a Formula While Keeping Source Value Labels

### Problem

A variable `VAR1` has 200 Value Labels. `VAR1` needs to be used in a formula with `VAR2` and `VAR3` but you don't want to re-type `VAR1`'s labels.

### Steps to solve

Let's assume your variables are called `VAR1` `VAR2` and `VAR3` to make things easier.

1. Go to the **Variables and Questions** tab.
2. Right-click on `VAR1` and click **Copy/Paste Variable(s) | Linked**
3. Click the **Values** button (...) on the new variable that was generated: `VAR1_L`.
4. Confirm all of the 200 labels appear in the **Label** column of the **Value Attributes** window.
5. Click **Cancel** to close the screen.
6. Right-click on `VAR1_L`, the linked variable, and click **Edit Variable...**
7. The **Edit JavaScript Numeric Variable** window should appear.
8. In the **Expression** text box, insert your formula that involves `VAR1`, `VAR2` and `VAR3`. e.g.  

```
if (!isNaN(VAR1)) VAR1;  
else if (!isNaN(VAR2)) VAR2;  
else if (!isNaN(VAR3)) VAR3;  
else NaN;
```
9. Click the **Check Code** button to make sure there are no problems with your expression.
10. Click **OK**.
11. Click the **Values** button (...) on `VAR1_L`.
12. Confirm all of the labels are still there and then click **Cancel** to close the screen.

### Additional reading

Terms shown in italics and bold can be found in the index of the *Q Reference Manual*, the *Quick Start Manual* and via the **Help** menu within Q.

### What to do if the problem is not solved

If these instructions are insufficient, please email us (**Help | Email Support...**) with a detailed description of what in the instructions is not working for you and we will either provide you with more comprehensive instructions, or, upon your request, we can do the analysis for you in your file (fees apply) .