

# UNICODE Function

Generates the Unicode index value for the first character of the input string.

- **Unicode** is a digital standard for the consistent encoding of the world's writing systems, so that representation of character sets is consistent around the world.
- The first 256 Unicode characters (0, 255) correspond to the ASCII character set.
- If the function cannot resolve a Unicode character from the first character, it returns a null value.

**Wrangle vs. SQL:** This function is part of Wrangle , a proprietary data transformation language. Wrangle is not SQL. For more information, see *Wrangle Language*.

## Basic Usage

### Column reference example:

```
unicode(MyChar)
```

**Output:** Returns Unicode index value for the first character in the `MyChar` column.

### String literal example:

```
unicode('A')
```

**Output:** Returns the integer 65.

## Syntax and Arguments

```
unicode(column_string)
```

Argument	Required?	Data Type	Description
column_string	Y	string	Name of the column or string literal the Unicode value of which is generated

For more information on syntax standards, see *Language Documentation Syntax Notes*.

### column\_string

Name of the column or string literal, the first character of which is converted to its corresponding Unicode value.

**NOTE:** If the input string contains multiple characters, the first character is mapped to its Unicode value, and the rest are ignored.

- Missing string or column values generate missing string results.
- String constants must be quoted ('Hello, World').
- Multiple columns and wildcards are not supported.

### Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
Yes	String literal or column reference	myColumn

## Examples

**Tip:** For additional examples, see *Common Tasks*.

### Example - char and unicode functions

In this example, you can see how the CHAR function can be used to convert numeric index values to Unicode characters, and the UNICODE function can be used to convert characters back to numeric values.

#### Functions:

Item	Description
CHAR Function	Generates the Unicode character corresponding to an inputted Integer value.
UNICODE Function	Generates the Unicode index value for the first character of the input string.

#### Source:

The following column contains some source index values:

index
1
33
33.5
34
48
57
65
90
97
121
254
255
256
257
9998
9999

#### Transformation:

When the above values are imported to the Transformer page, the column is typed as integer, with a single mismatched value (33.5). To see the corresponding Unicode characters for these characters, enter the following transformation:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	New formula
----------------------------	-------------

<b>Parameter: Formula type</b>	Single row formula
<b>Parameter: Formula</b>	CHAR(index)
<b>Parameter: New column name</b>	'char_index'

To see how these characters map back to the index values, now add the following transformation:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	New formula
<b>Parameter: Formula type</b>	Single row formula
<b>Parameter: Formula</b>	UNICODE(char_index)
<b>Parameter: New column name</b>	'unicode_char_index'

### Results:

index	char_index	unicode_char_index
1		1
33	!	33
33.5		
34	"	34
48	0	48
57	9	57
65	A	65
90	Z	90
97	a	97
122	z	122
254	þ	254
255	ÿ	255
256		256
257		257
9998		9998
9999		9999

Note that the floating point input value was not processed.