## PharmaSUG 2017 - Paper TT13

## The Proc Transpose Cookbook

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## **ABSTRACT**

Proc TRANSPOSE rearranges columns and rows of SAS datasets, but its documentation and behavior can be difficult to comprehend. For common input files, this paper will show a variety of desired output files, plus code and explanations.

## INTRODUCTION

Do you have a SAS<sup>®</sup> file in one layout of rows and columns – but you need them in a different arrangement? Maybe you have values for Heart Rate in one column with different rows for each patient's 5 visits (vertical) – but you want one row for each patient with all 5 visits' Heart Rates listed as variables (horizontal)? Or vice versa? Or maybe it's financial data, or demographic, or any other kind... and any number of other column/row structures? The TRANSPOSE Procedure is there to solve it: it flips columns and rows of SAS datasets as needed, faster and simpler than you can with a DATA Step. Yet its documentation and behavior are difficult to comprehend.

This paper will show you how to turn SAS File "A" into SAS File "B" with Proc TRANSPOSE. Its SAS File "A" examples are simple, but represent real-world SAS file structures. The transposed File "B"s also represent typical transposition needs. A TRANSPOSE Samples Lookup Table, a Syntax Summary, and the full sample SAS code are located in the Appendix for reference.

## **BASICS**

Whenever I've had to switch columns and rows in SAS datasets, it has always been under the pressure of a deadline – or more typically, "ASAP". I would look at the SAS documentation page, try to figure it out, do a few tests, and then get something working. Yet I never felt I understood what I was doing, nor was I confident that I could do it again later -- without going through the process all over again.

I needed a cheat sheet. I needed sample code plus before-and-after pictures. It needed to capture 90% of what I'm likely to do, and the principles I need for the rest. The results are in this paper. We'll go through 10 examples of very simplified typical datasets that need to be transposed, and there are reference materials that you can go back to in the future.

You already know that Proc TRANSPOSE changes the shape of your SAS dataset. It can make *values in the rows* for a variable become new *variables* and conversely, it can move *variables* from their horizontal positions into *values in rows*.

We'll start with this example – a small vertical dataset that you want to re-arrange horizontally. Suppose there are only two subjects and four dates which are, for now, just character variables. What you really want is a file that has subject in the first column, but the weights (for the four dates) as their own columns.

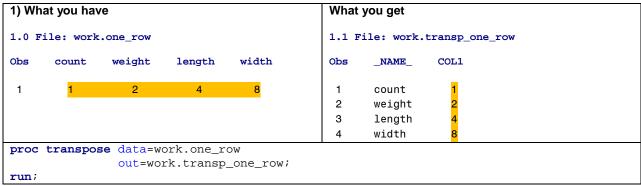
What you have					
subject	date	weight			
Brittany	jan31	145			
Ann	jan31	153			
Brittany	feb28	146			
Ann	feb28	151			
Brittany	mar31	144			
Ann (etc)	mar31	150			

What you want					
subject	jan31	feb28	mar31	apr30	
Ann	153	151	150	152	
Brittany	145	146	144	142	
Brittany	145	146	144	14	

This is what we'll be looking at throughout this paper – pictures of what you have, and what you want. You should then be able to translate the examples to your own dataset situation and get what you want.

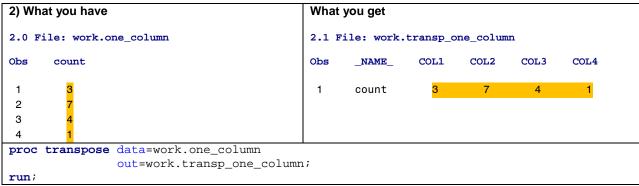
## **VERY SIMPLE PROC TRANSPOSES**

TRANSPOSE has a default behavior, like most SAS procs. If you don't tell it what to do, but simply name the input and output datasets, it will turn all *numeric* columns for a row into a single column, and value of numeric columns into new variables. When it's done, it adds a \_NAME\_ variable to the transposed file so that you can see where the values came from. Finally, unlike some other Procs, TRANSPOSE does not print its output.



Note that TRANSPOSE also chooses a name for the new column -- COL1. And if you had 2 or more rows before transposing, you'd get COL1, COL2... COLn in the output.

If the situation were reversed, where the input file had one column with multiple rows, your TRANSPOSE result would be one row with many columns.



What happens if you have more than one column in the input? You will get multiple rows in the output, where each row will have the \_NAME\_ of the original column from the input.

Most of the time we want something more customized though, and TRANSPOSE provides several Proc options and statements. The main statements are VAR, BY, and ID. We'll get into specifics, but for the moment, here is a diagram. We will use this BY, ID, and VAR highlighting in this paper:

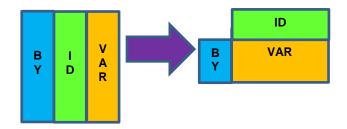
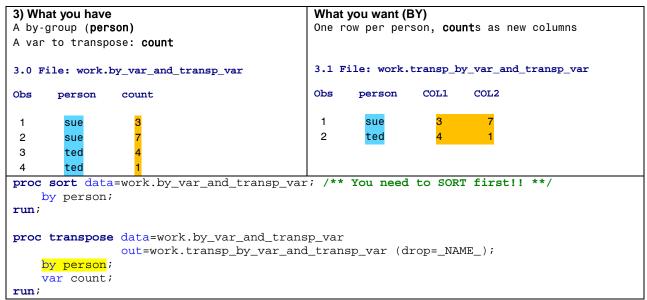


Figure 1. BY, ID, and VAR relationships

**BY** is just like BY in SORT or PRINT, etc; **ID** column *values* become new col *names*;

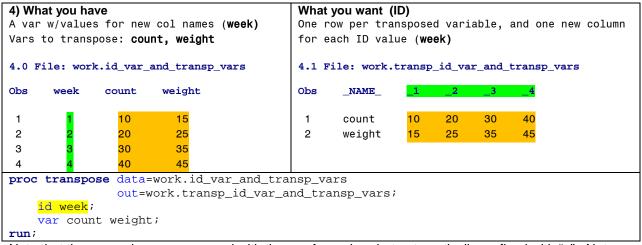
**VAR** values are flipped 90° to fit the new structure.

## **COOKBOOK SITUATIONS**



The BY variable should be a discrete, or categorical, variable – that is, with a limited number of values for the dataset. Why? Because your by-group is your main grouping of rows and you want a smaller, manageable number of them.

The \_NAME\_ of the variable that was transposed doesn't really help us in the output so we drop it.

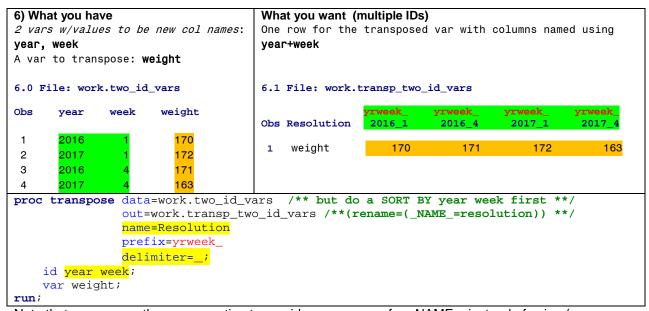


Note that the new columns are named with the **week** number, but automatically prefixed with "\_". Note also, the ID variable (like BY) should be discrete/categorical. Why? Because the ID values will become your new column names – and you may not want too many new columns. BY and ID vars are most often character-datatype vars, although they certainly can be numeric.

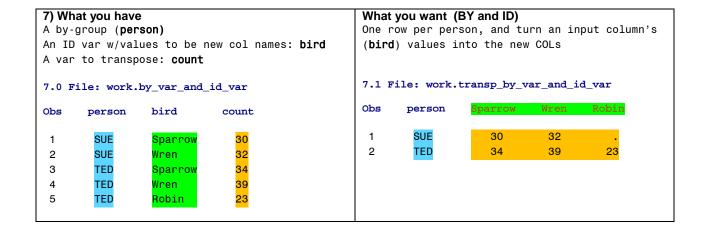
5) What you have A var w/values for new col names (week) Vars to transpose: count, weight (for dup ID values, see Appendix Samples 5a)	What you want (ID and prefix) One row per transposed variable, and one new column for each ID value (week), and better-looking
<u>dup ID values</u> , see Appendix Samples 5a)	

```
5.0 File: work.id_var_and_transp_vars
                                           5.1 File: work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars
Obs
       week
               count
                        weight
                                          Obs
                                                  measurement
 1
                          15
                                           1
                                                    count
                                                                   10
                                                                            20
                                                                                     30
                                                                                               40
2
                 20
                          25
                                           2
                                                    weight
                                                                   15
                                                                            25
                                                                                     35
                                                                                              45
3
                 30
                          35
 4
                 40
                data=work.id_var_and_transp_vars
proc transpose
                 out=work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars (rename=(_NAME_=measurement))
                 prefix=week;
    id week;
    var count weight;
run;
```

Important: notice that **week**'s values are unique. That is, there are not two "week" rows with the same value. That (<u>duplicate ID values</u>) would lead to two new columns both named "week2"... can't happen. If this situation occurs in your input data, you could use Proc MEANS/SUMMARY to get average **counts** and **weights** before running TRANSPOSE – if average values are acceptable to your customer. This is shown in Appendix Samples and Code sections "5a". And for an alternative solution, see example 10.



Note that we can use the name= option to provide a new name for \_NAME\_, instead of using (rename=.

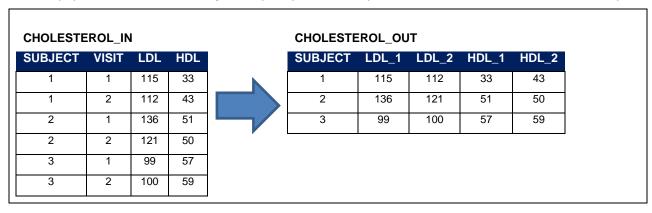


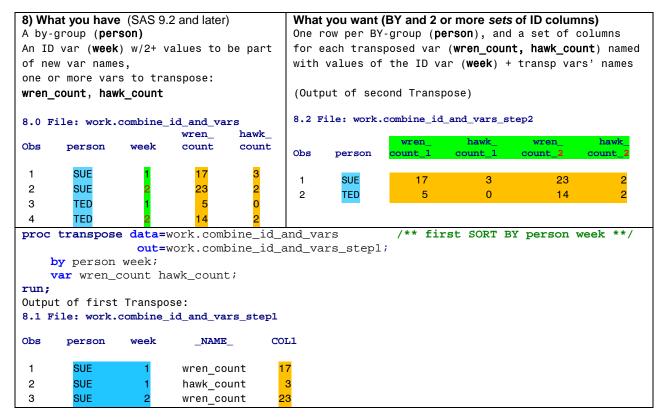
```
proc sort data=work.by_var_and_id_var;
   by person;
run;

proc transpose data=work.by_var_and_id_var
   out=work.transp_by_var_and_id_var (drop=_NAME_);
   by person;
   var count;
   id bird;
run;
```

#### THE DOUBLE-TRANSPOSE SITUATION

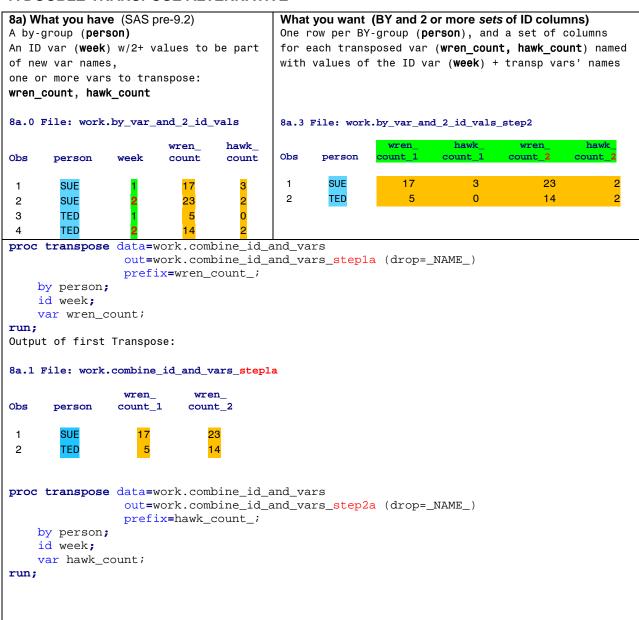
Do you want to combine ID values with existing column names? You can't do this with a single TRANSPOSE! Note: there are numerous alternative solutions to this. Josh Horstman's SAS Global Forum paper 1266-2014, *Five Ways to Flip-Flop Your Data* presents 5. He illustrates a relevant example:





```
SUE
                        hawk_count
                                       5
5
       TED
                        wren_count
                                       0
 6
       TED
                        hawk_count
 7
        TED
                        wren count
                                       14
                                       2
 8
       TED
                        hawk count
proc transpose data=work.combine_id_and_vars_step1
                 out=work.combine_id_and_vars_step2 (drop=_NAME_)
                 delimiter=_;
    by person;
                     /** tranposing this to multiple columns **/
    var COL1;
    id _NAME_ week; /** combining _NAME_ and week values for new column names **/
                                    Output of this second Transpose is seen in Print 8.2 above
run;
```

#### A DOUBLE-TRANSPOSE ALTERNATIVE



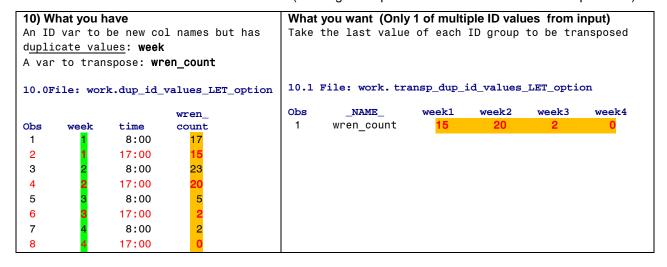
```
Output of second Transpose:
8a.2 File: work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a
                 hawk_
                           hawk_
Obs
      person
                count_1
                           count_2
 1
       SUE
2
       TED
data work.combine_id_and_vars_step3a;
    merge work.combine_id_and_vars_stepla
          work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a;
    by person;
run;
Output of this merge (work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a) is identical to Print 8.2 above
```

#### UNUSUAL SITUATIONS: COPY STATEMENT

9) What you have	What	you want	(# of outpu	t rows =	# of input	rows)	
A var to leave un-transposed: <b>count</b>	a) Transposed var ( <b>count</b> ), and						
A var to transpose: <b>count</b>	b) <u>same number of output rows</u> as input rows						
9.0 File: work.copy_and_transp_var	9.1 F	ile: work	.transp_co	py_and_t	ransp_va	r	
Obs count	Obs	count	_NAME_	COL1	COL2	COL3	COL4
1 10	1	10	count	<mark>10</mark>	20	<mark>30</mark>	<mark>40</mark>
2 <mark>20</mark>	2	20		-		-	-
3 <mark>30</mark>	3	30					
4 <mark>40</mark>	4	40					
proc transpose data=work.copy_and	_trans	sp_var					
out=work.transp_c	opy_ar	nd_transp	_var;				
copy count;							
<pre>var count;</pre>							
run;							

Note that the transposed vars are put only on the first row. If there is a BY group/statement, the transposed vars go on the first row of each BY group row. COPY does not need to be the same as VAR; could be another variable.

## **UNUSUAL SITUATIONS:** *LET* **OPTION** (Naming Transposed Variables When ID Has Dup Values):



Because LET takes the <u>last set of values for the ID</u> to transpose, make sure that you SORT prior to TRANSPOSE so that you get the right values (in last position) for each by BY group.

## CONCLUSION

Proc TRANSPOSE is an easy way to rearrange rows and columns – if you have examples to refer to. Use those in this paper, and if you have other, interesting TRANSPOSE situations, feel free to send them to me.

#### **REFERENCES**

Horstman, Joshua M, 2014, "Five Ways to Flip-Flop Your Data", SAS Global Forum Proceedings 2014

Stuelpner, Janet, 2006, "The TRANSPOSE Procedure or How To Turn It Around", *Proceedings of SAS Users Group International 31* 

Tilanus, Erik W., 2007, "Turning the data around: PROC TRANSPOSE and alternative approaches", SAS Global Forum Proceedings 2007

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **APPENDIX**

# **SAMPLES LOOKUP TABLE**

	What you have	What you want	What you do
1	One column, many rows	Many columns, one row (simple)	Basic/default Transpose
2	Many columns, one row	Many rows, one column (simple)	Basic/default Transpose
	Many columns, many rows	Many rows, many columns (simple)	Basic/default Transpose
3	A by-group ( <b>person)</b> var	One row per person, <b>count</b> s as	BY person;
	A var to transpose: <b>count</b>	new columns	VAR count;
4	Var w/values for new col names	One row/transposed variable,	ID week;
	(week)	one new column for each ID	VAR count weight;
	Vars to transpose: count, weight	value (week)	
5	A var w/values for new col names	One row per transposed	prefix=week
	(week)	variable, and one new column	ID week;
	Vars to transpose: count, weight	for each ID value (week), and	VAR count weight;
	vara to transpose. Oddit, worght	better-looking	
5a	ID van with dun valuas, wask	<u> </u>	Summarize dup IDs with
Sa	ID var with dup values: week	One row per transposed var, one	•
	Var to transpose: <b>count</b>	new var for each ID value <b>but</b>	Proc MEANS first, <i>then</i>
		no dup-ID ERRORs	transpose that output
		(this works if mean values are	<pre>proc means data=NWAY;</pre>
		acceptable by your customer)	class week; /*(ID)*/
		,	var count;
			output out=
			mean(count)=count;
			run;
6	2 vars w/values to be new col	One row for the transposed var	prefix=yrweek_
	names: year, week	with columns named using	delimiter=
	A var to transpose: weight	year+week	ID year week;
	A var to transposer weight	your mook	VAR weight;
7	A by-group (person)	One row per person, and turn an	BY person;
	An ID var w/values to be new col	input column's ( <b>bird</b> ) values	VAR count;
	names: <b>bird</b>	into the new COLs	ID bird;
	A var to transpose: <b>count</b>		
8	A by-group (person)	One row per BY-group (person),	Double transpose:
	An ID var ( <b>week</b> ) w/2+ values to	and a set of columns for each	BY person week;
	be part of new var names,	transposed var (wren_count,	VAR wren hawk;
	one or more vars to transpose:	hawk_count) named with values	then
	wren_count, hawk_count	of the ID var ( <b>week</b> ) + transp	BY person;
		vars' names	VAR COL1;
	(4)	(4)	ID _NAME_ week;
8a	(Above, alternative method)	(Above, alternative method)	Double transpose:
			BY person;
			ID week; VAR wren_count;
			then
			BY person;
			ID week;
			VAR hawk_count;
			Then merge
9	A var to leave un-transposed:	What you want (# of output rows =	COPY count;
	count	# of input rows)	VAR count;
	A var to transpose: <b>count</b>	a) Transposed var ( <b>count</b> ), and	
		b) <i>same number of output rows</i>	
		as input rows	
10	An ID var to be new col names	Take the last value of each ID	Sort first by ID
	but has <u>duplicate values</u> : <b>week</b>	group to be transposed	LET option
	A var to transpose: wren_count		ID week;
	_		VAR wren_count;

# TRANSPOSE SYNTAX

PROC TRANSPOSE	Proc name (required); note: unlike some Procs, TRANSPOSE does not print anything
Proc options	
data=	Input dataset (required, otherwise it picks up _last_ dataset)
out=	Transposed output file. (required, otherwise it writes output files as work.data#, e.g.
	work.data1, etc)
obs/where/keep/rename	Many ordinary dataset options are also available after the data= or out=
prefix=	a prefix to use for constructing names for transposed variables in the output data set.
	For example, if PREFIX=QTCB, then the names of the variables are QTCB1, QTCB2,
	, QTCBn; otherwise, transposed columns are COL1, COL2, COLn
suffix=	a suffix to use in creating names for transposed vars in the output dataset
name=	the name for the variable in the output data set that contains the name of the variable
	that is being transposed to create the current observation; if you don't use this, the
	column will automatically be named _NAME_
label=	a name for the variable in the output data set that contains the label of the variable that
	is being transposed to create the current observation; like <b>name=</b> , if the variable being
	transposed has a variable label and you don't use this option, the column will be
	automatically named _LABEL_
delimiter=	Provides a delimiter character (e.g) to separate new column names – when the ID
	statement has more than one variable (new with SAS 9.2)
let	An odd option. It allows duplicate values of an ID variable (used to name the new
	column(s)). PROC TRANSPOSE transposes the observation that contains the <i>last</i>
	occurrence of a particular ID value within the data set or BY group. You might want this
	– but be sure to sort your data so that the last occurrence value is the one you want.
	Try it to see how it works.
Proc Statements	
VAR	Names the variable(s) to be transposed – can be character or numeric; if you don't have
ID.	a VAR statement, all numeric vars will be transposed
ID	A variable whose values will become the new transposed columns – often a numeric
	value and often used with the <b>prefix=</b> option. If it is numeric and no prefix= is given the
IDLABEL	number will be prefixed with an underscore when it becomes a var name  Can only be used with the ID statement – creates variable labels for the transposed vars
IDLABEL	by using the value of another column that is related to the ID column. For example, if
	studentnum is unique and you use <b>ID studentnum</b> ; then <b>IDLABEL</b>
	student_last_name; could provide the student's last names as the column labels to be
	used with e.g. proc print data=work.xyz label;
BY	The BY var(s) is not transposed (flipped) – it is often found in the first column(s); data
51	must be first SORTed by the same BY var(s) before using BY in Proc TRANSPOSE.
	For each BY-group, the proc creates one row for each var it transposes: for example, if
	3 "horizontal" numeric vars for a single BY-group row are transposed, there will be 3
	rows with that BY var value in the output (and vice versa):
	(# of output rows) = (# of BY-groups) * (# of transposed vars)
COPY	Another unusual feature. Copies one or more vars directly from the input data set to the
	output data set without transposing them – the best of both worlds, i.e., you get
	transposed vars + the original rows; the number of rows in the output dataset is equal to
	the number of rows in the input dataset, and the first row for each by-group contains
	transposed values. Try it to see how it works.
RUN	A Good SAS Practice (GSP)
Other statements	
attrib	Associates attributes (format, informat, label, length) with variables by changing the
	descriptor information of the SAS dataset
format	Associates formats with variables
label	Assigns descriptive labels to variables
where	Selects observations from SAS datasets that meet a particular condition

## **CODE USED IN EXAMPLES**

```
* CURRENT PROGRAM SUMMARY SECTION ;
* Pgm name : $Id:
Proc_Transpose_Cookbook_Pharmasug_2017_TT13.sas 649 2017-
03-31 18:39:55Z n550513 $ ;
* Curr Descr: Samples for Pharmasug 2017 paper TT13;
%macro proc_print(run_yn=y, data=, obs=, example_num=);
%if %upcase(&run_yn) ne N %then %do;
       %if &obs eq %str( ) %then %do;
%let obs = max;
          title "&example_num File: &data";
       %end;
       %else %do;
          title "&example_num File: &data (obs=&obs)";
       %end:
       proc print data=&data (obs=&obs) width=min
                 heading=h;
       run;
    %end;
%mend proc_print;
******************
data work.one row;
    infile cards;
   input count weight length width;
    cards;
1 2 4 8
run;
%proc_print(data=work.one_row, example_num=1.0);
proc transpose data=work.one_row
             out=work.transp_one_row;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_one_row, example_num=1.1);
*********
data work.one column;
    infile cards;
   input count;
   cards;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.one_column, example_num=2.0);
proc transpose data=work.one_column
             out=work.transp_one_column;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_one_column, example_num=2.1);
+++***********************
* 3) By var + transp var;
data work.by_var_and_transp_var;
   infile cards;
    input person $ count;
   cards;
sue 7
ted 4
ted 1
%proc_print(data=work.by_var_and_transp_var,
example num=3.0);
proc sort data=work.by_var_and_transp_var; /** You need to
SORT first!! **/
   by person;
proc transpose data=work.by_var_and_transp_var
             out=work.transp_by_var_and_transp_var
(drop=_NAME_);
   by person;
   var count;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_by_var_and_transp_var,
example_num=3.1);
```

```
* 4) ID var + transp var;
data work.id_var_and_transp_vars;
    infile cards;
    input week count weight;
    cards;
1 10 15
2 20 25
3 30 35
4 40 45
run;
%proc_print(data=work.id_var_and_transp_vars,
example_num=4.0);
proc transpose data=work.id_var_and_transp_vars
              out=work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars;
    id week;
   var count weight;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars,
example_num=4.1);
***********
data work.id_var_and_transp_vars;
    infile cards;
input week count weight;
    cards;
1 10 15
2 20 25
3 30 35
4 40 45
%proc_print(data=work.id_var_and_transp_vars,
example num=5.0);
proc transpose data=work.id var and transp vars
              out=work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars
(rename=(_NAME_=measurement))
             prefix=week;
    id week;
   var count weight;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_id_var_and_transp_vars,
example_num=5.1);
***********
data work.dup_id_values;
   infile cards;
input week count;
    cards:
1 10
2 20
2 24
3 30
4 40
run;
%proc print(data=work.dup id values, example num=5a.0);
proc means data=work.dup id values NWAY NOPRINT;
    var count;
    output out=work.means_dup_id_values (drop=_type_
_freq_) mean(count)=count;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.means_dup_id_values,
example_num=5a.1);
proc transpose data=work.means_dup_id_values
              out=work.transp_means_dup_id_values
(rename=(_NAME_=measurement))
              prefix=week;
    id week;
    var count;
run :
%proc_print(data=work.transp_means_dup_id_values,
example_num=5a.2);
* 6) 2 or more id vars for the new columns;
data work.two_id_vars;
    infile cards;
    input year week weight ;
    cards;
```

```
2016 1 170
2017 1 172
2016 4 171
2017 4 163
run;
%proc_print(data=work.two_id_vars, example_num=6.0);
proc sort data=work.two_id_vars;
by year week;
proc transpose data=work.two_id_vars
               out=work.transp_two_id_vars
/**(rename=(_NAME_=resolution)) **/
name=Resolution
              prefix=year_week_
              delimiter= ;
    id year week;
   var weight;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_two_id_vars, example_num=6.1);
* 7) A by var and an id var;
data work.by var and id var;
    infile cards;
    input person $ bird $ count;
    cards;
SUE Sparrow 30
SUE Wren 32
TED Sparrow 34
TED Wren 39
TED Robin 23
%proc_print(data=work.by_var_and_id_var, example_num=7.0);
proc sort data=work.by_var_and_id_var;
   by person;
run;
proc transpose data=work.by_var_and_id_var
    out=work.transp_by_var_and_id_var (drop=_NAME_);
    by person;
    id bird;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_by_var_and_id_var,
example_num=7.1);
* 8) A by var and 2 or more id vars;
data work.combine_id_and_vars;
   infile cards;
    input person $ week wren_count hawk_count;
    cards;
SUE 1 17 3
SUE 2 23 2
TED 1 5 0
TED 2 14 2
%proc_print(data=work.combine_id and vars,
example_num=8.0);
proc sort data=work.combine_id_and_vars;
   by person week;
proc transpose data=work.combine_id_and_vars
               out=work.combine_id_and_vars_step1;
    by person week;
    var wren_count hawk_count;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.combine_id_and_vars_step1,
example num=8.1);
proc transpose data=work.combine id and vars step1
               out=work.combine_id_and_vars_step2
                    (drop=_NAME_)
                delimiter=_;
   by person;
    var COL1; /** tranposing this to multiple columns **/
id NAME week; /** combining NAME and week for new column names **/
%proc_print(data=work.combine_id_and_vars_step2,
```

```
* 8a) A by var and 2 or more id vars;
proc transpose data=work.combine id and vars
              out=work.combine id and vars stepla
                  (drop=_NAME_)
              prefix=wren_count_;
    by person;
   id week;
   var wren count;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.combine_id_and_vars_step1a,
example num=8a.0);
proc transpose data=work.combine_id_and_vars
              out=work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a
                      (drop=_NAME_)
              prefix=hawk_count_;
   by person;
   var hawk count;
%proc_print(data=work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a,
example_num=8a.1);
data work.combine id and vars step3a;
   merge work.combine_id_and_vars_stepla
         work.combine_id_and_vars_step2a;
   by person;
run;
%proc print(data=work.combine id and vars step3a,
* 9) Unusual - where you want same number
* of output rows as input rows (COPY stmt);
data work.copy_and_transp_var ;
    infile cards;
   input count;
   cards;
20
30
40
%proc_print(data=work.copy_and_transp_var,
example_num=9.0);
proc transpose data=work.copy_and_transp_var
              out=work.transp_copy_and_transp_var;
   copy count;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.transp_copy_and_transp_var,
data work.dup_id_values_LET_option;
    infile cards;
    input week time wren_count;
    informat time time5.;
    format time time5.;
    cards;
1 08:00 17
2 08:00 23
3 08:00 5
4 08:00 2
1 17:00 15
2 17:00 20
3 17:00 2
4 17:00 0
proc sort data=work.dup_id_values_LET_option;
   by week time;
run;
%proc_print(data=work.dup_id_values_LET_option,
example num=10.0);
proc transpose data=work.dup_id_values_LET_option
              out=work.transp_dup_id_values_LET_option
              prefix=week
               LET;
    id week;
    var wren_count;
%proc print(data=work.transp dup id values LET option,
example_num=10.1);
```