DATA Step
Should variable names be treated as case-sensitive?

Generally it is not necessary to worry about case when typing code and referring to variable names, dataset and library names etc., however a consistent coding style is always to be recommended.

This has two benefits: firstly it aids in readability, and secondly, there may be circumstances where the case may be an issue.

Consider the code:

```
data vars ;
  attrib a B c length = 4 ;
  a = 100 ;
  b = 200 ;
  c = 300 ;
run ;
```
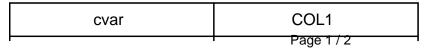
which runs and produces a dataset.

a	B	c
100	200	300

Look at the properties of this dataset and you will see that the variable names are: a, B and c which is the case in which they were first referenced, and the system retains these.

Any subsequent code which references the second variable can use either b or B interchangeably.

If however the data is transposed:

```
proc transpose data = vars
               out = vars_t (rename = (_name_ = cvar))
  ;
run ;
```

the output dataset now has the original variable names stored as values in the cvar variable: these values are now case-sensitive, and inconsistent.

cvar	COL1

DATA Step

a	100
B	200
c	300

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