

How to Setup Variables that allow Multiple Responses (e.g., “check all that apply)

Here’s a sample survey question:

- Q3. Which of the following dating services are you aware of? Please select all that apply.
- A Match.com
 - B Yahoo! Personals
 - C PerfectMatch.com
 - D AmericanSingles.com
 - E eHarmony.com
 - F Other _____

In order to set this up in SPSS, you need to set up a separate variable for EACH listed response to the question. Thus, for this example, I would add six variables in SPSS. Like this:

<u>Variable name</u>	<u>Variable Label</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Missing values</u>
Q3A	Match.com	1=they checked this	Don’t put anything here
Q3B	Yahoo!	1=they checked this	Don’t put anything here
Q3C	PerfectMatch	1=they checked this	Don’t put anything here
Q3D	AmericanSingles	1=they checked this	Don’t put anything here
Q3E	eHarmony	1=they checked this	Don’t put anything here
Q3Other	Other responses	1=Dorney’s dating 2=PiperDating Service Etc. Do this for all the open ended items they gave	

So, for this one single question, I’ve created six new variables (columns) in SPSS.

When inputting the data, I’d put a one in each column that represented that the respondent actually chose that response. If someone didn’t check that particular item, I’d just leave it blank.