Oftentimes, researchers want to calculate total scores (a.k.a., scales scores, summed scores, factor scores, etc.). A very common example is when a researcher uses a scale that is comprised of multiple items.

**How do we compute total scores in SPSS?**

[Transform] → [Compute Variable...]

A new box opens...

When you are finished, click on “OK”. An example is On the following page.
The following example would be one way to compute a total score for the Conscientiousness scale. Notice the following...

- “Cons8” did not fit on the first line, but SPSS will still read it correctly
- recoded values are included as appropriate (e.g., Cons2r, Cons4r)