

SQL

SQL is a standard computer language for accessing and manipulating databases.
(Taken from www.w3schools.com)

What is SQL?

- SQL stands for **S**tructured **Q**uery **L**anguage
 - SQL allows you to access a database
 - SQL is an ANSI standard computer language
 - SQL can execute queries against a database
 - SQL can retrieve data from a database
 - SQL can insert new records in a database
 - SQL can delete records from a database
 - SQL can update records in a database
-

SQL is a Standard - BUT....

SQL is an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard computer language for accessing and manipulating database systems. SQL statements are used to retrieve and update data in a database. SQL works with database programs like MS Access, DB2, Informix, MS SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase, etc. Unfortunately, there are many different versions of the SQL language, but to be in compliance with the ANSI standard, they must support the same major keywords in a similar manner (such as SELECT, UPDATE, DELETE, INSERT, WHERE, and others).

Note: Most of the SQL database programs also have their own proprietary extensions in addition to the SQL standard!

SQL Database Tables

A database most often contains one or more tables. Each table is identified by a name (e.g. "Customers" or "Orders"). Tables contain records (rows) with data.

Below is an example of a table called "Persons":

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

The table above contains three records (one for each person) and four columns (LastName, FirstName, Address, and City).

SQL Queries

With SQL, we can query a database and have a result set returned.

A query like this:

```
SELECT LastName FROM Persons
```

Gives a result set like this:

LastName
Hansen
Svendson
Pettersen

Note: Some database systems require a semicolon at the end of the SQL statement. We don't use the semicolon in our tutorials.

SQL Data Manipulation Language (DML)

SQL (Structured Query Language) is a syntax for executing queries. But the SQL language also includes a syntax to update, insert, and delete records.

These query and update commands together form the Data Manipulation Language (DML) part of SQL:

- **SELECT** - extracts data from a database table
- **UPDATE** - updates data in a database table
- **DELETE** - deletes data from a database table
- **INSERT INTO** - inserts new data into a database table

SQL Data Definition Language (DDL)

The Data Definition Language (DDL) part of SQL permits database tables to be created or deleted. We can also define indexes (keys), specify links between tables, and impose constraints between database tables. The most important DDL statements in SQL are:

- **CREATE TABLE** - creates a new database table
- **ALTER TABLE** - alters (changes) a database table
- **DROP TABLE** - deletes a database table
- **CREATE INDEX** - creates an index (search key)
- **DROP INDEX** - deletes an index

The SQL SELECT Statement

The SELECT statement is used to select data from a table. The tabular result is stored in a result table (called the result-set).

Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
```

Note: SQL statements are not case sensitive. SELECT is the same as select.

SQL SELECT Example

To select the content of columns named "LastName" and "FirstName", from the database table called "Persons", use a SELECT statement like this:

```
SELECT LastName,FirstName FROM Persons
```

The database table "Persons":

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

The result

LastName	FirstName
Hansen	Ola
Svendson	Tove
Pettersen	Kari

Select All Columns

To select all columns from the "Persons" table, use a * symbol instead of column names, like this:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
```

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

The Result Set

The result from a SQL query is stored in a result-set. Most database software systems allow navigation of the result set with programming functions, like: Move-To-First-Record, Get-Record-Content, Move-To-Next-Record, etc.

Semicolon after SQL Statements?

Semicolon is the standard way to separate each SQL statement in database systems that allow more than one SQL statement to be executed in the same call to the server. Some SQL tutorials end each SQL statement with a semicolon. Is this necessary? We are using MS Access and SQL Server 2000 and we do not have to put a semicolon after each SQL statement, but some database programs force you to use it.

The SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The DISTINCT keyword is used to return only distinct (different) values.

The SELECT statement returns information from table columns. But what if we only want to select distinct elements?

With SQL, all we need to do is to add a DISTINCT keyword to the SELECT statement:

Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT column_name(s)
FROM table name
```

Using the DISTINCT keyword

To select ALL values from the column named "Company" we use a SELECT statement like this:

```
SELECT Company FROM Orders
```

"Orders" table

Company	OrderNumber
Sega	3412
W3Schools	2312
Trio	4678
W3Schools	6798

Result

Note that "W3Schools" is listed twice in the result-set.

To select only DIFFERENT values from the column named "Company" we use a SELECT DISTINCT statement like this:

```
SELECT DISTINCT Company FROM Orders
```

Company
Sega
W3Schools
Trio
W3Schools

Result: Now "W3Schools" is listed only once in the result-set.

Company
Sega
W3Schools
Trio

The WHERE Clause

The WHERE clause is used to specify a selection criterion.

To conditionally select data from a table, a WHERE clause can be added to the SELECT statement.

```
SELECT column FROM table
WHERE column operator value
```

Syntax

With the WHERE clause, the following operators can be used:

Note: In some versions of SQL the <> operator may be written as !=

Operator	Description
=	Equal
<>	Not equal
>	Greater than
<	Less than
>=	Greater than or equal
<=	Less than or equal
BETWEEN	Between an inclusive range
LIKE	Search for a pattern
IN	If you know the exact value you want to return for at least one of the columns

Using the WHERE Clause

To select only the persons living in the city "Sandnes", we add a WHERE clause to the SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City='Sandnes'
```

"Persons" table

LastName	FirstName	Address	City	Year
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes	1951
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes	1978

Svendson	Stale	Kaivn 18	Sandnes	1980
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger	1960

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City	Year
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes	1951
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes	1978
Svendson	Stale	Kaivn 18	Sandnes	1980

Using Quotes

Note that we have used single quotes around the conditional values in the examples.

SQL uses single quotes around text values (most database systems will also accept double quotes). Numeric values should not be enclosed in quotes.

For text values:

```
This is correct:
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE FirstName='Tove'
This is wrong:
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE FirstName=Tove
```

For numeric values:

```
This is correct:
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE Year>1965
This is wrong:
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE Year>'1965'
```

The LIKE Condition

The LIKE condition is used to specify a search for a pattern in a column.

Syntax

```
SELECT column FROM table
WHERE column LIKE pattern
```

A "%" sign can be used to define wildcards (missing letters in the pattern) both before and after the pattern.

Using LIKE

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that start with an 'O':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE FirstName LIKE 'O%'
```

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that end with an 'a':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE FirstName LIKE '%a'
```

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that contain the pattern 'la':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE FirstName LIKE '%la%'
```

The INSERT INTO Statement

The INSERT INTO statement is used to insert new rows into a table.

Syntax

```
INSERT INTO table_name
VALUES (value1, value2,...)
```

You can also specify the columns for which you want to insert data:

```
INSERT INTO table_name (column1, column2,...)
VALUES (value1, value2,...)
```

Insert a New Row

This "Persons" table:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

And this SQL statement:

```
INSERT INTO Persons
VALUES ('Hetland', 'Camilla', 'Hagabakka 24', 'Sandnes')
```

Will give this result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes

Insert Data in Specified Columns

This "Persons" table:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes

And This SQL statement:

```
INSERT INTO Persons (LastName, Address)
VALUES ('Rasmussen', 'Storgt 67')
```

Will give this result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes
Rasmussen		Storgt 67	

The Update Statement

The UPDATE statement is used to modify the data in a table.

Syntax

```
UPDATE table_name
SET column_name = new_value
WHERE column_name = some_value
```

Person:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen		Storgt 67	

Update one Column in a Row

We want to add a first name to the person with a last name of "Rasmussen":

```
UPDATE Person SET FirstName = 'Nina'
WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Storgt 67	

Update several Columns in a Row

We want to change the address and add the name of the city:

```
UPDATE Person
SET Address = 'Stien 12', City = 'Stavanger'
WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Stien 12	Stavanger

The DELETE Statement

The DELETE statement is used to delete rows in a table.

Syntax

```
DELETE FROM table_name
WHERE column_name = some_value
```

Person:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Stien 12	Stavanger

Delete a Row

"Nina Rasmussen" is going to be deleted:

```
DELETE FROM Person WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger

Delete All Rows

It is possible to delete all rows in a table without deleting the table. This means that the table structure, attributes, and indexes will be intact:

```
DELETE FROM table_name  
or  
DELETE * FROM table_name
```

SQL ORDER BY

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The ORDER BY keyword is used to sort the result.

Sort the Rows

The ORDER BY clause is used to sort the rows.

Orders:

Company	OrderNumber
Sega	3412
ABC Shop	5678
W3Schools	6798
W3Schools	2312

Example

To display the company names in alphabetical order:

```
SELECT Company, OrderNumber FROM Orders  
ORDER BY Company
```

Result:

Company	OrderNumber
ABC Shop	5678
Sega	3412
W3Schools	6798
W3Schools	2312

Example

To display the company names in alphabetical order AND the OrderNumber in numerical order:

```
SELECT Company, OrderNumber FROM Orders  
ORDER BY Company, OrderNumber
```

Result:

Company	OrderNumber
ABC Shop	5678
Sega	3412
W3Schools	2312
W3Schools	6798

Example

To display the company names in reverse alphabetical order:

```
SELECT Company, OrderNumber FROM Orders  
ORDER BY Company DESC
```

Result:

Company	OrderNumber
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W3Schools	6798
W3Schools	2312
Sega	3412
ABC Shop	5678

Example

To display the company names in reverse alphabetical order AND the OrderNumber in numerical order:

```
SELECT Company, OrderNumber FROM Orders
ORDER BY Company DESC, OrderNumber ASC
```

Result:

Company	OrderNumber
W3Schools	2312
W3Schools	6798
Sega	3412
ABC Shop	5678

Notice that there are two equal company names (W3Schools) in the result above. The only time you will see the second column in ASC order would be when there are duplicated values in the first sort column, or a handful of nulls.

SQL AND & OR

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AND & OR

AND and OR join two or more conditions in a WHERE clause.

The AND operator displays a row if ALL conditions listed are true. The OR operator displays a row if ANY of the conditions listed are true.

Original Table (used in the examples)

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Svendson	Stephen	Kaivn 18	Sandnes

Example

Use AND to display each person with the first name equal to "Tove", and the last name equal to "Svendson":

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE FirstName='Tove'
AND LastName='Svendson'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

Example

Use OR to display each person with the first name equal to "Tove", or the last name equal to "Svendson":

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE firstname='Tove'
OR lastname='Svendson'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Svendson	Stephen	Kaivn 18	Sandnes

Example

You can also combine AND and OR (use parentheses to form complex expressions):

```
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE
(FirstName='Tove' OR FirstName='Stephen')
AND LastName='Svendson'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Svendson	Stephen	Kaivn 18	Sandnes

SQL GROUP BY and HAVING

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Aggregate functions (like SUM) often need an added GROUP BY functionality.

GROUP BY...

GROUP BY... was added to SQL because aggregate functions (like SUM) return the aggregate of all column values every time they are called, and without the GROUP BY function it was impossible to find the sum for each individual group of column values.

The syntax for the GROUP BY function is:

```
SELECT column,SUM(column) FROM table GROUP BY column
```

GROUP BY Example

This "Sales" Table:

Company	Amount
W3Schools	5500
IBM	4500
W3Schools	7100

And This SQL:

```
SELECT Company, SUM(Amount) FROM Sales
```

Returns this result:

Company	SUM(Amount)
W3Schools	17100
IBM	17100
W3Schools	17100

The above code is invalid because the column returned is not part of an aggregate. A GROUP BY clause will solve this problem:

```
SELECT Company,SUM(Amount) FROM Sales  
GROUP BY Company
```

Returns this result:

Company	SUM(Amount)
W3Schools	12600
IBM	4500

HAVING...

HAVING... was added to SQL because the WHERE keyword could not be used against aggregate functions (like SUM), and without HAVING... it would be impossible to test for result conditions.

The syntax for the HAVING function is:

```
SELECT column,SUM(column) FROM table  
GROUP BY column  
HAVING SUM(column) condition value
```

This "Sales" Table:

Company	Amount
W3Schools	5500
IBM	4500
W3Schools	7100

This SQL:

```
SELECT Company,SUM(Amount) FROM Sales  
GROUP BY Company  
HAVING SUM(Amount)>10000
```

Returns this result

Company	SUM(Amount)
W3Schools	12600