

Lesson 1: Getting Started with SQL Using SSMS (SQL Server Management Studio)

What You'll Learn


By the end of this lesson, you'll be able to:

- Install the necessary tools to work with SQL locally
 - Create your first database
 - Understand what tables are and how to build them
 - Add real-world data into your tables
 - Get ready for querying your data in future lessons
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Step 1: Installing the Tools

To follow along with the series, you'll need to download **two main things**:


1. **SQL Server Express**
 - This is the actual database engine that stores your data.
 - The *Express* version is lightweight and free.
2. **SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)**
 - This is a graphical interface to work with SQL.
 - You'll write, run, and manage SQL queries from here.

 You'll find both download links in the video description. Once downloaded, follow the installation steps.

Step 2: Opening SSMS & Connecting

Once everything is installed:

- Open SSMS.
- It will prompt you to connect to a server.
- Select the default options, and you should be connected successfully.

 You're now inside your local SQL workspace.

Step 3: Creating a Database

With SSMS open:

- Navigate to the "Databases" section.
- Right-click and choose "New Database."
- Give it a name like **SQL_Tutorial** and create it.

Your database is now ready!

Step 4: Creating Tables

Tables are like spreadsheets inside your database. Each one holds data in rows and columns.

In this lesson, we're creating **two tables**:

1. An **Employee Demographics** table — to store personal details like name, age, and gender.

2. An **Employee Salary** table — to store job titles and salary information.

These tables are the foundation of everything we'll do going forward.

Step 5: Inserting Data

Once your tables are created, you'll want to add data into them.

Example:

- Jim Halpert: Male, Age 30, Job Title: Salesman, Salary: \$45,000
- Pam Beesly, Dwight Schrute, Michael Scott, Angela Martin, and more are added with different roles and salaries.

The data you're inserting now will be used to practice SQL queries later.

Step 6: Viewing Your Data

After inserting data:

- You can open the tables to *view* what you've added.
 - You'll see rows with columns like names, ages, job titles, and salaries.
 - If your tables don't appear immediately, use the **refresh** shortcut to update SSMS.
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Recap

- ✓ You've installed SQL Server and SSMS
 - ✓ Created your first database and tables
 - ✓ Populated them with real-life data
 - ✓ You're now ready to start writing SQL queries in the next lesson
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Coming Up Next...

In the next lesson, we'll dive into the **fun part** — learning how to *query* your data using SQL commands like:

- `SELECT`
- `WHERE`
- `GROUP BY`
- `ORDER BY`

We'll explore how to filter, sort, and group data — all skills you'll use in real-world projects.