Definition[​](https://docs.getdbt.com/reference/resource-properties/identifier#definition)

The [table](https://docs.getdbt.com/terms/table) name as stored in the database. Identifier can be used to change the name of the table when the data is taken from the warehouse it uses the name which is its original one but if we want to save it when the transformations are completed and then it will be saved with name which Is set in the identifier and then when called, it will be called with the name of identifier as the identifiers name will be used as the name of the database to be stored.

***This parameter is useful if you want to use a source table name that differs from the table name in the database.***

Syntax

version: 2  
**sources:**  
 - name: <source\_name>  
 database: <database\_name>  
 tables:  
 - name: <table\_name>  
 **identifier:** **<table\_identifier>**

Default[​](https://docs.getdbt.com/reference/resource-properties/identifier#default)

By default, dbt will use the table's name: parameter as the identifier.

***If identifier is not set then dbt will consider the tables original name is the identifier and table named will be stored again like it was but if an identifier is defined then it will override the original name of the table***

Examples[​](https://docs.getdbt.com/reference/resource-properties/identifier#examples)

**Use a simpler name for a source table than the one in your database**[**​**](https://docs.getdbt.com/reference/resource-properties/identifier#use-a-simpler-name-for-a-source-table-than-the-one-in-your-database)

models/<filename>.yml

version: 2  
  
**sources**:  
 - name: jaffle\_shop  
 tables:  
 **- name**: **orders**  
 **identifier**: **api\_orders**

* **In a downstream model:**

select \* from {{ source('jaffle\_shop', '**orders'**) }}

*so firstly when the data is taken from warehouse as a raw data it will be mentioned with its original name which was assigned to it.*

* **Will get compiled to**:

select \* from jaffle\_shop.**api\_orders**

***but once the identifier is defined and run then whenever its name will be used it will be used as defined in the identifier. Now this will be its original name***

### Reference sharded tables as a source in BigQuery[​](https://docs.getdbt.com/reference/resource-properties/identifier" \l "reference-sharded-tables-as-a-source-in-bigquery" \o "Direct link to Reference sharded tables as a source in BigQuery)

models/<filename>.yml

version: 2  
  
sources:  
 - name: ga  
 tables:  
 - name: events  
 identifier: "events\_\*"

In a downstream model:

select \* from {{ source('ga', 'events') }}  
  
*-- filter on shards by suffix*  
where \_table\_suffix > '20200101'

Will get compiled to:

select \* from `my\_project`.`ga`.`events\_\*`  
  
*-- filter on shards by suffix*  
where \_table\_suffix > '20200101'

Identifiers vs Aliases

1. **Identifiers:** Identifiers are used to uniquely identify and reference database objects such as tables, views, and schemas within your dbt project. They provide a way to locate and interact with these objects in your code. Identifiers help you specify the name and location of the objects you are working with.
2. **Aliases**: Aliases, on the other hand, are used to provide alternative or temporary names to columns or expressions in your SQL code. They allow you to rename or create new names for the results of your queries. Aliases are typically used within SELECT statements to modify the display or interpretation of column names or calculated values.

In summary, identifiers are used to identify and reference database objects, while aliases are used to modify or rename the names of columns or expressions in your SQL code. Identifiers are used to locate and interact with objects, whereas aliases are used to provide alternate or more descriptive names to the results of your queries.