

# SQL Server LIKE Condition (Operator)

 [javatpoint.com/sql-server-like-operator](https://javatpoint.com/sql-server-like-operator)

SQL Server LIKE condition or operator is used to perform pattern matching. It is used with WHERE clause and SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE and DELETE statement.

## Syntax:

1. expression LIKE pattern [ ESCAPE 'escape\_character' ]

## Parameter Explanation

**expression:** It is a character expression like a column or field.

**pattern:** It is a character expression that contains pattern matching.

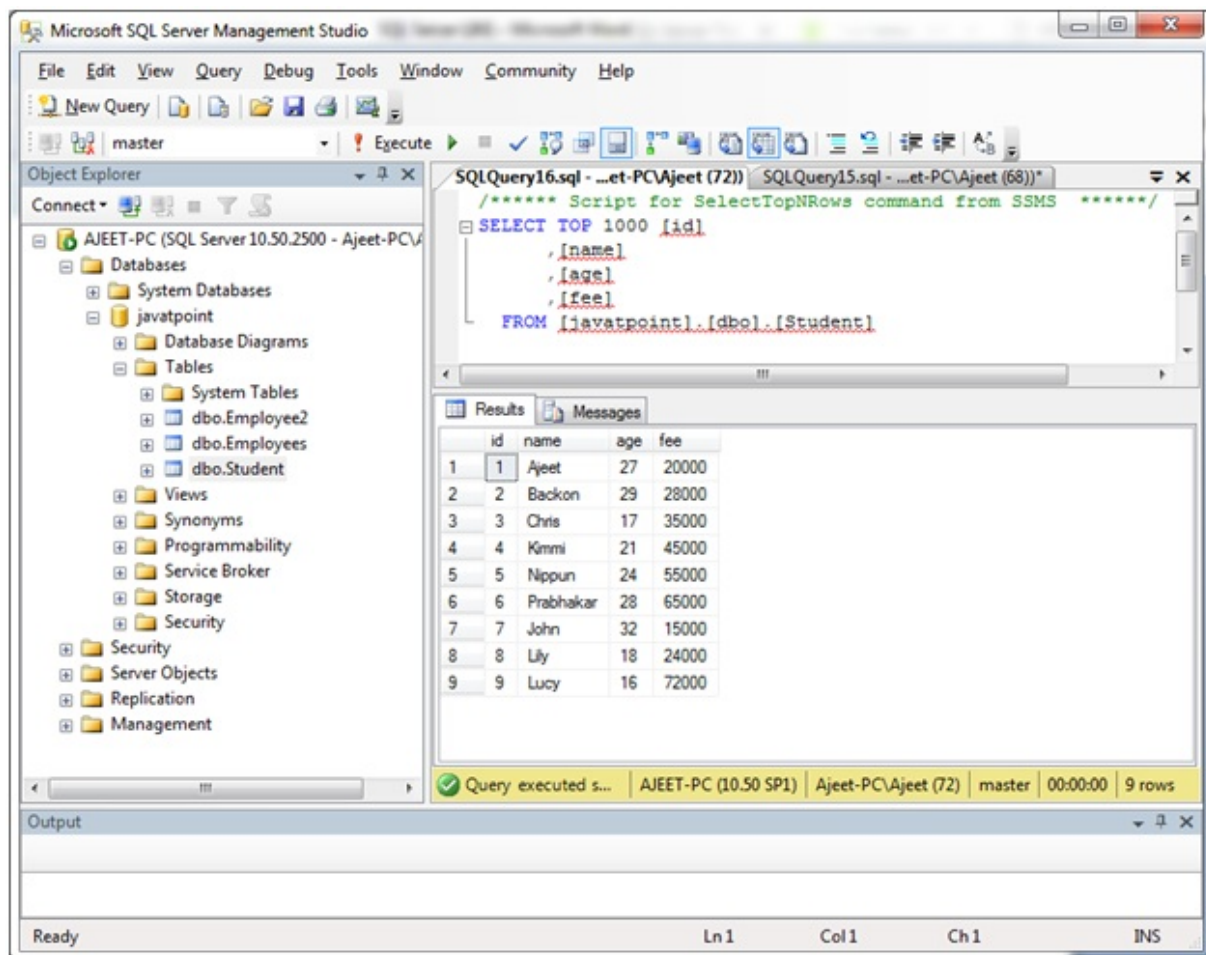
Following is a list of patterns used with LIKE operator:

Wildcard	Explanation
%	It is used to match any string of any length (including zero length).
_	It is used to match on a single character.
[ ]	It is used to match on any character in the [ ] brackets (for example, [abc] would match on a, b, or c characters)
[^]	It is used to match on any character not in the [^] brackets (for example, [^abc] would match on any character that is not a, b, or c characters)

## LIKE Operator using % wildcard (percent sign wildcard)

### Example:

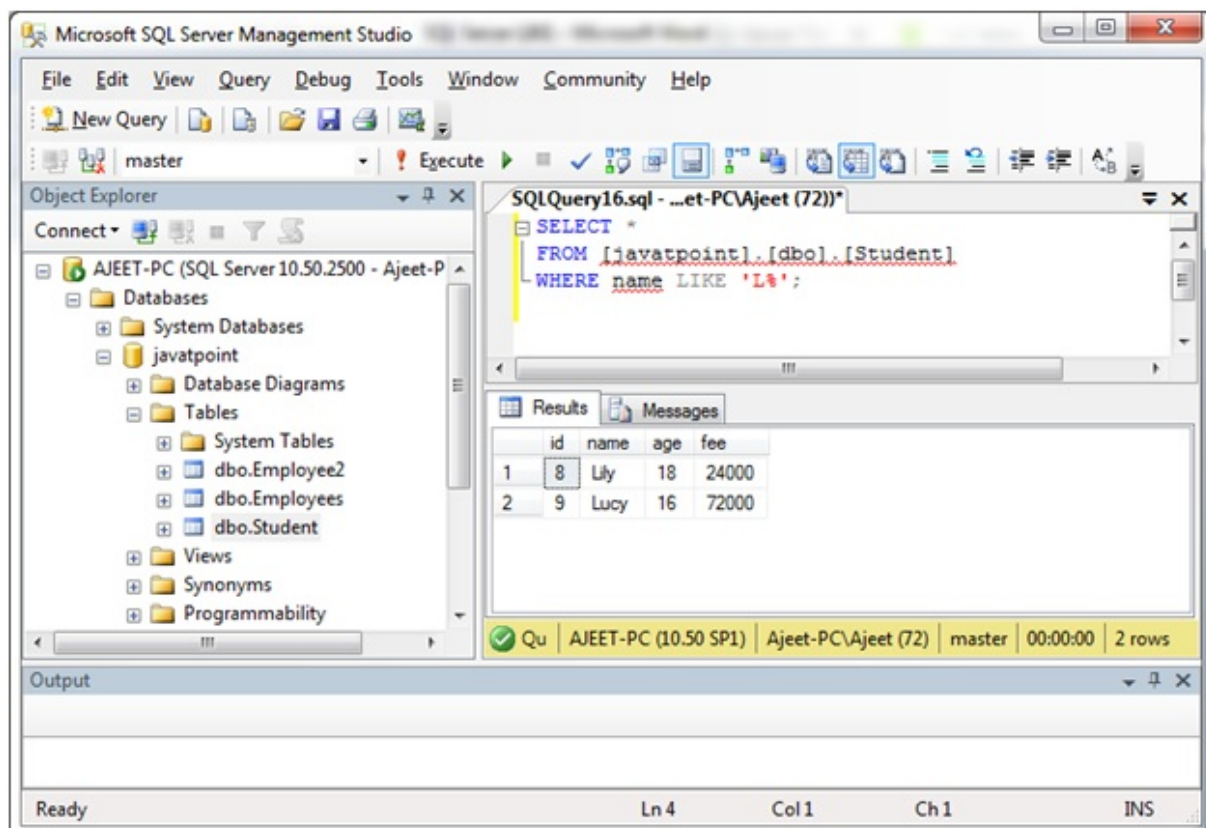
You have a table named "Students", having the following data:



Let's use % wildcard with SQL Server LIKE condition. Here we retrieve all of the students from "Student" table whose name begins with 'L'.

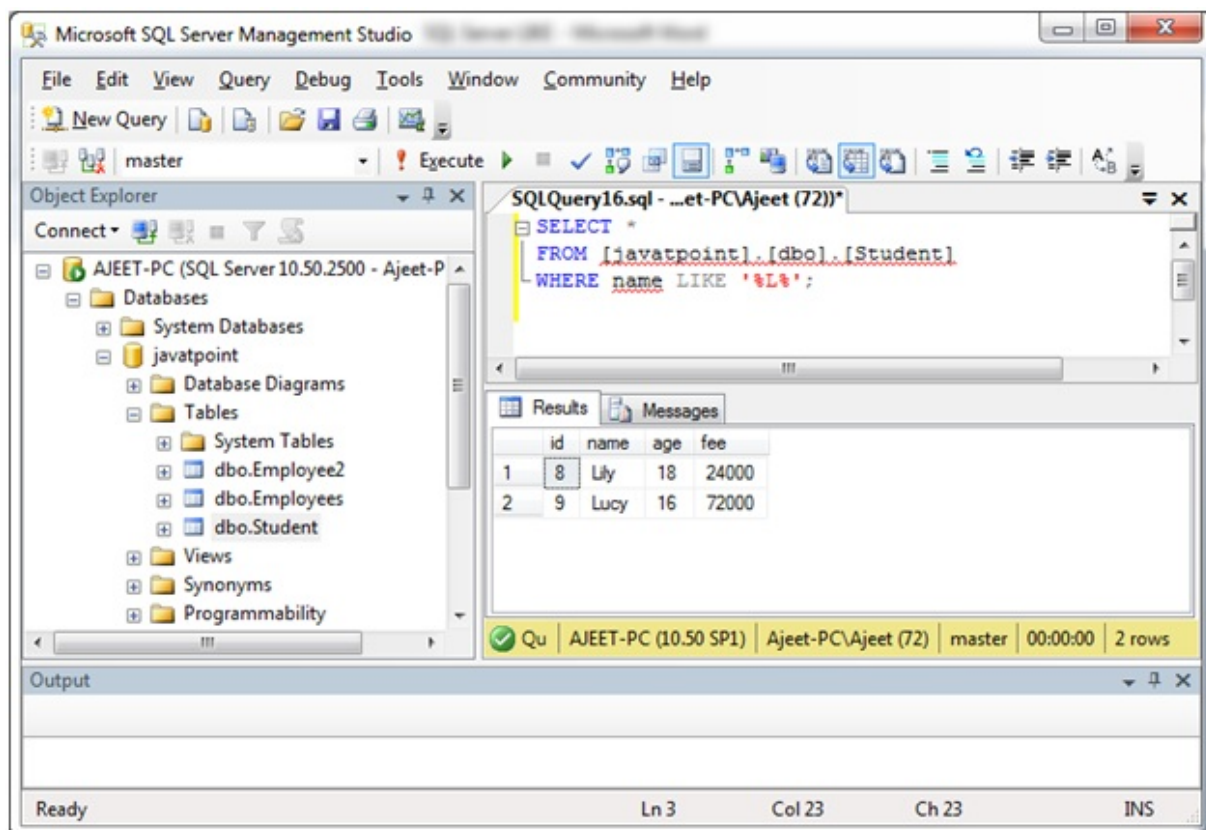
1. SELECT \*
2. FROM [javatpoint].[dbo].[Student]
3. WHERE name LIKE 'L%';

Output:



Or

1. SELECT \*
2. FROM [javatpoint].[dbo].[Student]
3. WHERE name LIKE '%L%';



## LIKE Operator using [ ] wildcard (square brackets wildcard)

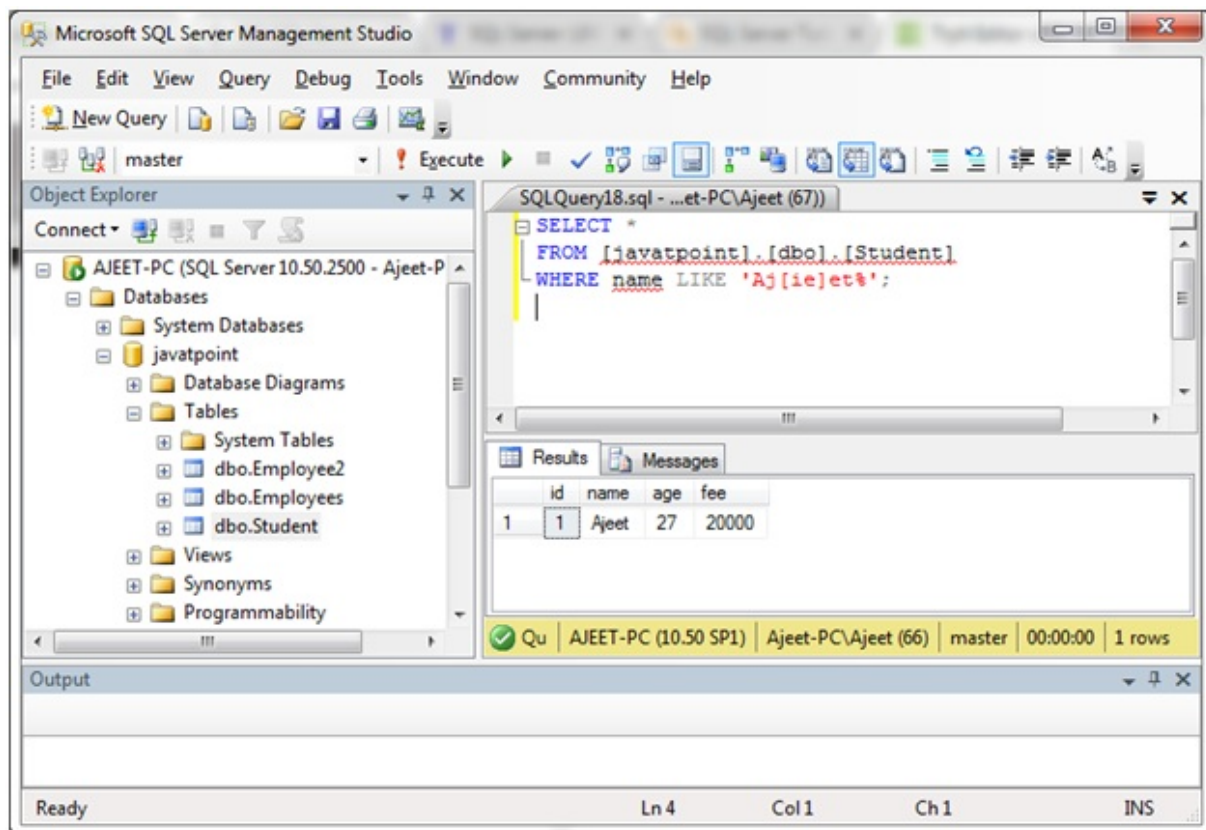
Let's use [ ] wildcard with SQL Server LIKE condition.

1. SELECT \*
2. FROM [javatpoint].[dbo].[Student]
3. WHERE name LIKE 'Aj[ie]et%';

Note:

It will return all students whose name is 5 characters long, where the first two characters is 'Aj' and the last two characters is 'et', and the third character is either 'i' or 'e'. So in this case, it would match on either 'Ajiet' or 'Ajeet'.

Output:



## LIKE Condition with NOT Operator

Let's retrieve all of the students from "Student" table whose name is not begin with 'L'.

1. SELECT \*
2. FROM [javatpoint].[dbo].[Student]
3. WHERE name NOT LIKE 'L%';

Output:

Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio

File Edit View Query Debug Tools Window Community Help

New Query

master

Object Explorer

Connect

AJEET-PC (SQL Server 10.50.2500 - Ajeet-P)

Databases

System Databases

javatpoint

Database Diagrams

Tables

System Tables

dbo.Employee2

dbo.Employees

dbo.Student

Views

Synonyms

Programmability

Service Broker

Storage

Security

Server Objects

Replication

Management

SQLQuery17.sql - ...et-PC\Ajeet (66)\*

```
SELECT *  
FROM [javatpoint].[dbo].[Student]  
WHERE name NOT LIKE 'A%';
```

Results

	id	name	age	fee
1	2	Backon	29	28000
2	3	Chris	17	35000
3	4	Kimmi	21	45000
4	5	Nippun	24	55000
5	6	Prabh...	28	65000
6	7	John	32	15000
7	8	Lily	18	24000
8	9	Lucy	16	72000

Messages

Qu | AJEET-PC (10.50 SP1) | Ajeet-PC\Ajeet (66) | master | 00:00:00 | 8 rows

Output

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