

MongoDB CRUD Operations > Insert Documents

Insert Documents

This page provides examples in:

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This page provides examples of insert operations in MongoDB.

CREATING A COLLECTION:

If the collection does not currently exist, insert operations will create the collection.

Insert a Single Document

`db.collection.insertOne()` inserts a *single* document into a collection.

The following example inserts a new document into the `inventory` collection. If the document does not specify an `_id` field, MongoDB adds the `_id` field with an `ObjectId` value to the new document. See [Insert Behavior](#).

```
db.inventory.insertOne(
  { item: "canvas", qty: 100, tags: ["cotton"], size: { h: 28, w: 35.5, uom: "cm" } }
)
```

You can run the operation in the web shell below:

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`insertOne()` returns a document that includes the newly inserted document's `_id` field value. For an example of a return document, see `db.collection.insertOne()` reference.

To retrieve the document that you just inserted, query the collection:

```
db.inventory.find( { item: "canvas" } )
```

Insert Multiple Documents

New in version 3.2.

`db.collection.insertMany()` can insert *multiple* documents into a collection. Pass an array of documents to the method.

The following example inserts three new documents into the `inventory` collection. If the documents do not specify an `_id` field, MongoDB adds the `_id` field with an `ObjectId` value to each document. See [Insert Behavior](#).

```
db.inventory.insertMany([
  { item: "journal", qty: 25, tags: ["journal", "black", "leather"] },
  { item: "mat", qty: 85, tags: ["gray"], size: { h: 27.9, w: 35.5, uom: "cm" } },
  { item: "mousepad", qty: 25, tags: ["gel", "blue"], size: { h: 19, w: 22.85, uom: "cm" } }
])
```

You can run the operation in the web shell below:

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`insertMany()` returns a document that includes the newly inserted documents `_id` field values. See the reference for an example.

To retrieve the inserted documents, query the collection:

```
db.inventory.find( {} )
```

Insert Behavior

Collection Creation

If the collection does not currently exist, insert operations will create the collection.

In MongoDB, each document stored in a collection requires a unique `_id` field that acts as a primary key. If an inserted document omits the `_id` field, the MongoDB driver automatically generates an `ObjectId` for the `_id` field.

This also applies to documents inserted through update operations with `upsert: true`.

Atomicity

All write operations in MongoDB are atomic on the level of a single document. For more information on MongoDB and atomicity, see [Atomicity and Transactions](#)

Write Acknowledgement

With write concerns, you can specify the level of acknowledgement requested from MongoDB for write operations. For details, see [Write Concern](#).

SEE ALSO:

- `db.collection.insertOne()`
- `db.collection.insertMany()`
- [Additional Methods for Inserts](#)