**Capitalization**

Always use uppercase for the reserved keywords like SELECT and WHERE.

Keep all non-reserved words in lowercase.

RESERVED WORD REFERENCE - <http://www.sqlstyle.guide/#reserved-keyword-reference>

**Commas**

If you are selecting multiple columns start each one on a new line with a comma in front. With the exception of the first line, adding the comma in front allows you to easily comment out lines without breaking the query.

SELECT customer\_id

, timestamp

, price

**Spaces**

Although not exhaustive always include spaces:

* before and after equals (=) — WHERE customer\_id = 1022456376
* after commas (,) — (‘Dining In’, To Go’)
* adding spaces inside and outside parentheses — SELECT ( price \* 3 ) FROM

**Joins**

Always fully specify the join type. “JOIN” should be written as “INNER JOIN”

Always use a join keyword instead of an “IN” clause or an equality join (using equal signs)

**Semicolon**

Put on its own line, not on the very end

WHERE price > 5.50

;

**Aliasing and & Naming**

* The correlation name should be the first letter of each word in the object’s name.
  + If there is already a correlation with the same name then append a number.

INNER JOIN purchases p

ON p.fk\_customer\_id = c.pk\_customer\_id

INNER JOIN customer\_contactinfo cci

* Always include the AS keyword—makes it easier to read as it is explicit.

SELECT customer\_id as renamed\_customer\_id

* Only use letters, numbers and underscores in names.
* All text should be lowercase except for reserved keywords

**Newlines**

Keep the length to a maximum of 80 characters—anything longer gets harder to read

Always include newlines/vertical space for the following things:

* Adding another AND or OR

WHERE amount >= 9.99

AND dining\_option = ‘Dining In’

AND new\_customer\_yn = ‘Y’

* Starting a reserved keyword statement (SELECT, FROM, WHERE)
* Writing another entirely new query

WHERE price > 5.50

;

SELECT ...

* Wanting to isolate a separate code chunk to help readability as an isolated piece of logic

FROM purchases p

(newline here)

INNER JOIN customers c

ON p.fk\_customer\_id = c.pk\_customer\_id

(newline here)

INNER JOIN customer\_contactinfo cci

ON c.pk\_customer\_id = cci.fk\_customer\_id

* Adding the semicolon to close the query (see below)

**Dates & Timestamps**

* Always compare dates columns with other date columns or a value as a date
  + Never compare a string with a date! It might result in weird behavior!
* Format hard coded dates as “YYYY-MM-DD”

**Other**

Do not use database server specific keywords where an ANSI SQL keyword already exists performing the same function. This helps to make code more portable.

**References - This style guide is an adaptation of:**

1. <http://www.sqlstyle.guide/>
2. <http://solutioncenter.apexsql.com/rules-of-sql-formatting-commas-and-spacing-in-t-sql/>
3. <http://solutioncenter.apexsql.com/sql-formatting-standards-capitalization-indentation-comments-parenthesis/>

**Resources:**

Hacker Rank is an excellent resource to learn SQL for all skill levels:

<https://www.hackerrank.com/domains/sql/select>