

SQL - TOP, LIMIT or ROWNUM Clause

The SQL **TOP** clause is used to fetch a TOP N number or X percent records from a table.

Note – All the databases do not support the TOP clause. For example MySQL supports the **LIMIT** clause to fetch limited number of records while Oracle uses the **ROWNUM** command to fetch a limited number of records.

Syntax

The basic syntax of the TOP clause with a SELECT statement would be as follows.

```
SELECT TOP number|percent column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE [condition]
```

Example

Consider the CUSTOMERS table having the following records –

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00
4	Chaitali	25	Mumbai	6500.00
5	Hardik	27	Bhopal	8500.00
6	Komal	22	MP	4500.00
7	Muffy	24	Indore	10000.00

The following query is an example on the SQL server, which would fetch the top 3 records from the CUSTOMERS table.

```
SQL> SELECT TOP 3 * FROM CUSTOMERS;
```

This would produce the following result –

```

+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ID | NAME   | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |
| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi     | 1500.00 |
| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota      | 2000.00 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

If you are using MySQL server, then here is an equivalent example –

```

SQL> SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
LIMIT 3;

```

This would produce the following result –

```

+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ID | NAME   | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |
| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi     | 1500.00 |
| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota      | 2000.00 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

If you are using an Oracle server, then the following code block has an equivalent example.

```

SQL> SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
WHERE ROWNUM <= 3;

```

This would produce the following result –

```

+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ID | NAME   | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |
| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi     | 1500.00 |
| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota      | 2000.00 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```