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## MySQL Empty Database / Delete or Drop All Tables

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**Q.** How do I empty MySQL database? What SQL command needs to be executed in order to delete all (100s) of tables in MySQL database called atomstore?

**A.** You need to use **DROP DATABASE** sql command to drops all tables in the database/empty database and deletes the database. Be very careful with this statement! To use DROP DATABASE, you need the DROP privilege on the database

### MySQL drop all tables syntax:

DROP DATABASE {mysql-database-name}

#### Method #1: Empty database with root user

In order to use this procedure you must have the **drop and create database privilege** (otherwise you will drop database but not able to create it again). Login as MySQL root or admin user to drop atomstore database:

```
$ mysql -u root -p
```

Now drop database:

```
mysql> DROP DATABASE atomstore;
```

Now create database again:

```
mysql> CREATE DATABASE atomstore;
```

Exit and close the session:

```
mysql> quit
```

#### Method #2: Drop all tables using shell script w/o root access

I've small handy shell script that removes all tables without dropping and creating MySQL database again.

```
#!/bin/bash
MUSER="$1"
MPASS="$2"
MDB="$3"

# Detect paths
MYSQL=$(which mysql)
AWK=$(which awk)
GREP=$(which grep)

if [ $# -ne 3 ]
then
    echo "Usage: $0 {MySQL-User-Name} {MySQL-User-Password} {MySQL-Database-Name}"
    echo "Drops all tables from a MySQL"
    exit 1
fi

TABLES=$(($MYSQL -u $MUSER -p$MPASS $MDB -e 'show tables' | $AWK '{ print $1}' | $GREP -v '')

for t in $TABLES
do
    echo "Deleting $t table from $MDB database..."
```

```
$MYSQL -u $MUSER -p$MPASS $MDB -e "drop table $t"
done
```

Simply use above script as follows to empty a database called quiz with username tom and password jerry:

```
$ ./drop.table.sh tom jerry quiz
```

### Download MySQL empty database drop script

You can download complete script with error checking below:

- [MySQL Drop All Tables Shell Script Utility](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

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[2] MySQL Drop All Tables Shell Script Utility: <http://bash.cyberciti.biz/mysql/drop-all-tables-shell-script/>