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MySQL **SUM** function is used to find out the sum of a field in various records.

To understand **SUM** function, consider an **employee\_tbl** table, which is having the following records:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee tbl;
1 | John | 2007-01-24 |
                                   250 I
    2 | Ram | 2007-05-27 |
                                    220 |
    3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 |
                                    170
    3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 |
                                    100
    4 | Jill | 2007-04-06
                                    220
    5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 |
                                   300
   5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 |
                                   350
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Now, suppose based on the above table you want to calculate total of all the dialy\_typing\_pages, then you can do so by using the following command:

```
mysql> SELECT SUM(daily_typing_pages)
    -> FROM employee_tbl;
+-----+
| SUM(daily_typing_pages) |
+-----+
| 1610 |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

You can take sum of various records set using **GROUP BY** clause. Following example will sum up all the records related to a single person and you will have total typed pages by every person.