It is very easy to drop an existing MySQL table, but you need to be very careful while deleting any existing table because data lost will not be recovered after deleting a table.

Syntax:

Here is generic SQL syntax to drop a MySQL table:

```
DROP TABLE table_name ;
```

Dropping Tables from Command Prompt:

This needs just to execute **DROP TABLE** SQL command at mysql> prompt.

Example:

Here is an example, which deletes **tutorials_tbl**:

```
root@host# mysql -u root -p
Enter password:******
mysql> use TUTORIALS;
Database changed
mysql> DROP TABLE tutorials_tbl
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.8 sec)
mysql>
```

Dropping Tables Using PHP Script:

To drop an existing table in any database, you would need to use PHP function **mysql_query()**. You will pass its second argument with proper SQL command to drop a table.

Example:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Creating MySQL Tables</title>
</head>
<body>
<?php
$dbhost = 'localhost:3036';
$dbuser = 'root';
$dbpass = 'rootpassword';
$conn = mysql connect($dbhost, $dbuser, $dbpass);
if(! $conn )
  die('Could not connect: ' . mysql error());
echo 'Connected successfully<br />';
$sql = "DROP TABLE tutorials tbl";
mysql select db( 'TUTORIALS');
$retval = mysql query( $sql, $conn );
if(! $retval )
  die('Could not delete table: ' . mysql error());
echo "Table deleted successfully\n";
mysql close ($conn);
</body>
</html>
```