SQL Aliases

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SQL Aliases

SQL aliases are used to give a table, or a column in a table, a temporary name.

Aliases are often used to make column names more readable.

An alias only exists for the duration of that query.

An alias is created with the `AS` keyword.

Alias Column Syntax

```
SELECT column_name AS alias_name
FROM table_name;
```

Alias Table Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name AS alias_name;
```

Demo Database

In this tutorial we will use the well-known Northwind sample database.

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021

3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP

And a selection from the "Orders" table:

OrderID	CustomerID	EmployeeID	OrderDate	ShipperID
10354	58	8	1996-11-14	3
10355	4	6	1996-11-15	1
10356	86	6	1996-11-18	2

Alias for Columns Examples

The following SQL statement creates two aliases, one for the CustomerID column and one for the CustomerName column:

Example

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```
SELECT CustomerID AS ID, CustomerName AS Customer
FROM Customers;
```

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The following SQL statement creates two aliases, one for the CustomerName column and one for the ContactName column. **Note:** It requires double quotation marks or square brackets if the alias name contains spaces:

Example

```
SELECT CustomerName AS Customer, ContactName AS [Contact Person]
FROM Customers;
```

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The following SQL statement creates an alias named "Address" that combine four columns (Address, PostalCode, City and Country):

Example

```
SELECT CustomerName, Address + ', ' + PostalCode + ' ' + City + ', ' +
Country AS Address
FROM Customers;
```

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Note: To get the SQL statement above to work in MySQL use the following:

```
SELECT CustomerName, CONCAT(Address,', ',PostalCode,', ',City,',
',Country) AS Address
FROM Customers;
```

Note: To get the SQL statement above to work in Oracle use the following:

```
SELECT CustomerName, (Address || ', ' || PostalCode || ' ' || City || ',
' || Country) AS Address
FROM Customers;
```

Alias for Tables Example

The following SQL statement selects all the orders from the customer with CustomerID=4 (Around the Horn). We use the "Customers" and "Orders" tables, and give them the table aliases of "c" and "o" respectively (Here we use aliases to make the SQL shorter):

Example

```
SELECT o.OrderID, o.OrderDate, c.CustomerName
FROM Customers AS c, Orders AS o
WHERE c.CustomerName='Around the Horn' AND c.CustomerID=o.CustomerID;
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement is the same as above, but without aliases:

Example

```
SELECT Orders.OrderID, Orders.OrderDate, Customers.CustomerName
FROM Customers, Orders
WHERE Customers.CustomerName='Around the
Horn' AND Customers.CustomerID=Orders.CustomerID;
```

Try it Yourself »

Aliases can be useful when:

- There are more than one table involved in a query
- Functions are used in the query
- Column names are big or not very readable
- Two or more columns are combined together