

SQL ORDER BY Keyword

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The SQL ORDER BY Keyword

The **ORDER BY** keyword is used to sort the result-set in ascending or descending order.

The **ORDER BY** keyword sorts the records in ascending order by default. To sort the records in descending order, use the **DESC** keyword.

ORDER BY Syntax

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...  
FROM table_name  
ORDER BY column1, column2, ... ASC|DESC;
```

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209
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
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22

ORDER BY Example

The following SQL statement selects all customers from the "Customers" table, sorted by the "Country" column:

Example

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```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
ORDER BY Country;
```

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ORDER BY DESC Example

The following SQL statement selects all customers from the "Customers" table, sorted DESCENDING by the "Country" column:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
ORDER BY Country DESC;
```

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ORDER BY Several Columns Example

The following SQL statement selects all customers from the "Customers" table, sorted by the "Country" and the "CustomerName" column. This means that it orders by Country, but if some rows have the same Country, it orders them by CustomerName:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
ORDER BY Country, CustomerName;
```

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ORDER BY Several Columns Example 2

The following SQL statement selects all customers from the "Customers" table, sorted ascending by the "Country" and descending by the "CustomerName" column:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
ORDER BY Country ASC, CustomerName DESC;
```

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Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Select all records from the **Customers** table, sort the result alphabetically by the column **City**.

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
;
```

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