

9. DROP TABLE

DROP TABLE statement

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1

9. DROP TABLE

Functionality

DROP TABLE statement permanently deletes the contents of relational table and removes its definition from a database

A relational table that has been dropped can be recreated as an empty table by the execution of **CREATE TABLE** statement

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2

9. DROP TABLE

Examples

```
CREATE TABLE Department (
  name      VARCHAR2(50),
  code      CHAR(5),
  total_staff_number NUMBER(2)      NOT NULL,
  chair     VARCHAR2(50),
  budget    NUMBER(9,1)             NULL,
  CONSTRAINT dept_pkey PRIMARY KEY(name),
  CONSTRAINT dept_ckey1 UNIQUE(code),
  CONSTRAINT dept_ckey2 UNIQUE(chair),
  CONSTRAINT dept_check1
  CHECK (total_staff_number BETWEEN 1 AND 50) );
```

```
CREATE TABLE Course (
  c#        CHAR(7),
  title     VARCHAR2(200)      NOT NULL,
  credits   NUMBER(1)          NOT NULL,
  offered_by VARCHAR2(50)      NULL,
  CONSTRAINT course_pkey PRIMARY KEY(c#),
  CONSTRAINT course_check1
  CHECK (credits IN (6, 12) ),
  CONSTRAINT course_fkey1 FOREIGN KEY(offered_by)
  REFERENCES Department(name)
  ON DELETE CASCADE );
```

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3

9. DROP TABLE

Examples

```
DROP TABLE Course PURGE;
```

```
DROP TABLE Department PURGE;
```

```
DROP TABLE Course;
```

```
DROP TABLE Department;
```

```
FLASHBACK TABLE Department TO BEFORE DROP;
```

```
FLASHBACK TABLE Course TO BEFORE DROP;
```

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4

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Keywords

```
DROP TABLE Course PURGE;
DROP TABLE Department PURGE;
```

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5

9. DROP TABLE

Table name

```
DROP TABLE Course PURGE;
DROP TABLE Department PURGE;
```

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6

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BEWARE !!!

```
DROP TABLE Department PURGE;
```

```
ERROR at line 1:  
ORA-02266: table has some unique/primary keys  
that are referenced by some foreign keys
```

**AN ORDER IN WHICH THE TABLES
ARE DROPPED IS IMPORTANT !!!**

```
DROP TABLE Department CASCADE CONSTRAINTS  
PURGE;
```

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7

9. DROP TABLE

References

<https://sai.uow.edu.au/oradocs/>
SQL Reference, **DROP TABLE** statement

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8