

# Describing Prerequisites

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This section describes some best practices when detailing prerequisites.

A prerequisite is any requirement that must be met, any task that the user must preform, or any authority or privilege that must be set up before the user can start the current task. Please note that not all tasks have prerequisites. These dependencies can be described with the <prereq> element. You can use many common elements in the <prereq> element, such as ordered lists, unordered lists, and paragraphs. Be careful not to add a long procedure in the <prereq> element. Instead, create another task topic for the prerequisite procedure. Please follow the guidelines below when creating Prerequisites.

- List the prerequisites before the first step of the task.

## **Example**

You must have SYSADMIN authority or CREATE privilege on the table.

- If the prerequisite is explained in another task topic, link to the task topic, and label the link appropriately.

## **Example**

### **Prerequisite**

Creating a connection

- When you link to a prerequisite task, do not create an inline link that is part of a sentence.

## **Example (incorrect)**

### **Prerequisite**

Before you can access the LAN on the system, you must Create a new connection.

## **Example (correct)**

### **Prerequisite**

Before you can access the LAN on the system, you must create a new connection.

See Create a new connection for instructions.