

Part - 14

# Data Retrieval Interview

Q & A

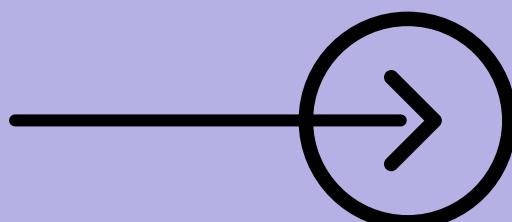
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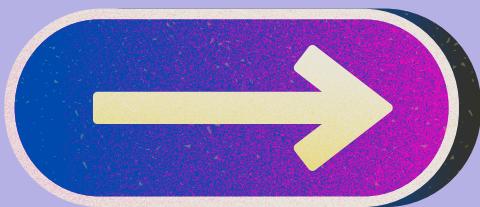
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**Name the Operator Used  
for Pattern Matching in  
SQL?**



## Like Operator:

→ In SQL, the operator used for pattern matching is the LIKE operator.

It allows you to filter data based on a specific pattern,

where the pattern may include wildcard characters that represent variable or unknown characters.



Let's See the Syntax of Like operator 😎

# Syntax:

## → Basic Syntax of the LIKE Operator:

```
SELECT column_name(s)  
FROM table_name  
WHERE column_name LIKE pattern;
```

## → Pattern Matching Wildcards:

- **%: Matches any sequence of characters (including zero characters).**
- **\_: Matches exactly one character.**



Let's see the example for it ?

# Examples:

- **LIKE 'a%': Matches any value that starts with "a".**
- **LIKE '%a': Matches any value that ends with "a".**
- **LIKE '%or%': Matches any value that contains the sequence "or".**
- **LIKE '\_r%': Matches any value where "r" is the second character.**

## → Example Query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM customers  
WHERE customer_name LIKE 'J%';
```

## → Explanation:

**The above query retrieves all rows from the "customers" table where the customer\_name starts with the letter "J".**

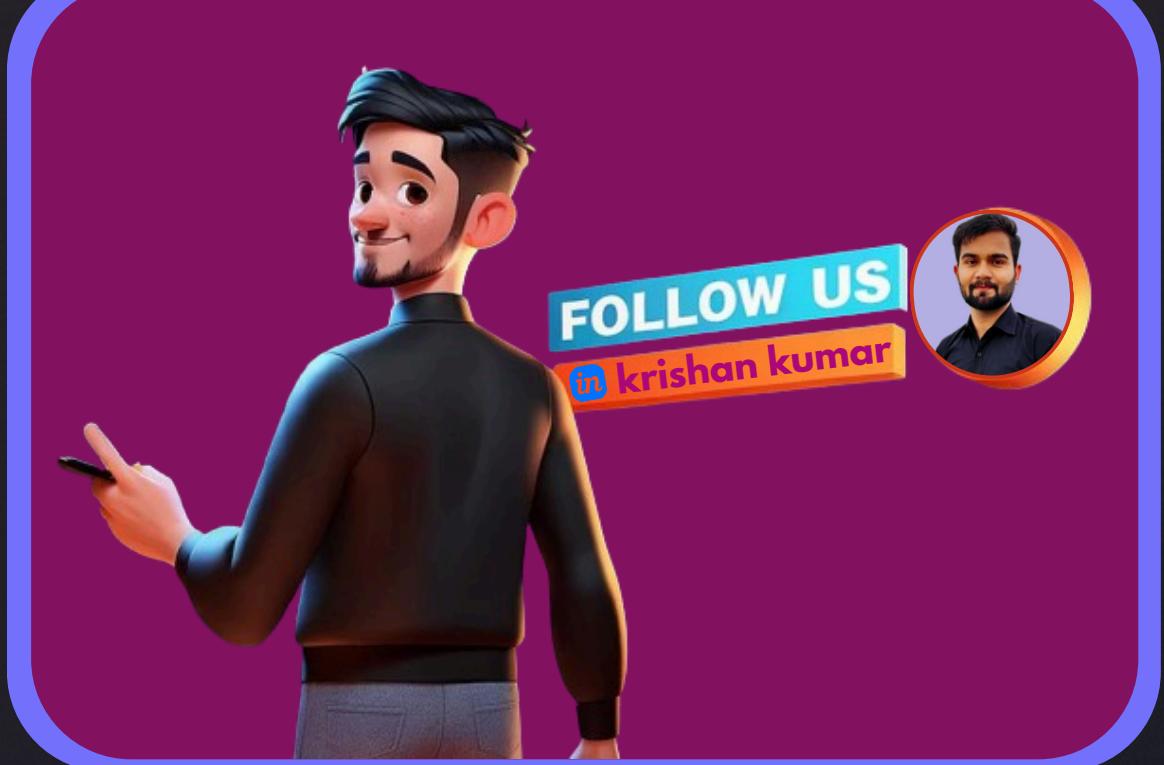
Swipe right for surprise! 

**Swipe right for the jackpot of the day!** 😊





wanna see some  
Counter Questions



# **1. What is the difference between % and \_ wildcards in the LIKE operator?**

- **The % wildcard matches any sequence of characters, including an empty string, whereas the \_ wildcard matches exactly one character.**

**For instance, LIKE 'A%' matches "Apple", "Ape", and "Ant", while LIKE 'A\_' would only match two-letter words starting with "A".**

**Next Question**



## **2. Can the LIKE operator be case-sensitive?**

→ **It depends on the database system. In most cases, the LIKE operator is case-insensitive by default, such as in MySQL.**

**However, databases like PostgreSQL offer case-sensitive pattern matching with the ILIKE operator.**

**Additionally, collations in some databases can affect case sensitivity.**



*Next Question*

### **3. How can the LIKE operator be used to filter data based on multiple patterns?**

- You can combine multiple LIKE conditions using the OR keyword.

**For example, to match values starting with "A" or "B", you can use**

**WHERE column\_name LIKE 'A%' OR  
column\_name LIKE 'B%'.**

**This filters results based on either pattern.**



## **4. What is an alternative approach for complex pattern matching in SQL?**

- For complex patterns, the **REGEXP** (Regular Expression) operator can be used.

**It provides more advanced pattern matching capabilities compared to LIKE, such as specifying character ranges and repeated patterns.**

**However, REGEXP is not available in all SQL databases.**



## **5. How does LIKE perform with large datasets, and can it affect query performance?**

- The LIKE operator can slow down query performance, especially with leading wildcards (e.g., %pattern). This is because the database needs to scan each row. To improve performance, indexing strategies or using full-text search features may be considered.



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