

ALTER (RENAME) IN SQL

Sometimes we may want to rename our table to give it a more relevant name. For this purpose, we can use **ALTER TABLE** to rename the name of the table. SQL **ALTER TABLE** is a command used to modify the structure of an existing table in a database. Here we will discuss Alter Command in SQL in detail.

Alter In SQL

Here we are discussing the syntax of Alter Command in different Databases like MYSQL, MariaDB, Oracle, etc. Let's proceed with Syntax first.

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
    RENAME TO new_table_name;
```

Columns can also be given a new name with the use of **ALTER TABLE**.

INSERT The Data In Student Table

Query

```
CREATE TABLE Student (  
    id INT PRIMARY KEY,  
    name VARCHAR(50),  
    age INT,  
    email VARCHAR(50),  
    phone VARCHAR(20)  
);
```

Let's insert some data and then perform ALTER operation to understand better about alter command.

```
INSERT INTO Student (id, name, age, email, phone)  
VALUES  
(1, 'Amit', 20, 'amit@gmail.com', '9999999999'),  
(2, 'Rahul', 22, 'rahul@yahoo.com', '8888888888'),  
(3, 'Priya', 21, 'priya@hotmail.com', '7777777777'),  
(4, 'Sonia', 23, 'sonia@gmail.com', '6666666666'),  
(5, 'Kiran', 19, 'kiran@yahoo.com', '5555555555');
```

Output

id	name	age	email	phone
1	Shubham	23	shubham@gmail.com	9999999999
2	Bhavika	21	bhavika@yahoo.com	8888888888
3	Aman	21	aman@hotmail.com	7777777777
4	Sonia	23	sonia@gmail.com	6666666666
5	Kiran	19	kiran@yahoo.com	5555555555

Example Of ALTER (RENAME) In SQL

Example 1

Change the name of column name to FIRST_NAME in table Student. To change the column name of the existing table you have to use Column keyword before writing the existing column name to change.

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE [name_of_table] RENAME
COLUMN [old_column_name] TO [new_column_name];
```

Query

```
ALTER TABLE Student RENAME COLUMN name TO FIRST_NAME;
```

id	FIRST_NAME	age	email	phone
1	Shubham	23	shubham@gmail.com	9999999999
2	Bhavika	21	bhavika@yahoo.com	8888888888
3	Aman	21	aman@hotmail.com	7777777777
4	Sonia	23	sonia@gmail.com	6666666666
5	Kiran	19	kiran@yahoo.com	5555555555

Example 2

Change the name of the table Student to Student_Details.

Query

```
ALTER TABLE Student RENAME TO Student_Details;
```

To Add A New Column With ALTER TABLE

To add a new column to the existing table, we first need to select the table with ALTER TABLE command table_name, and then we will write the name of the new column and its datatype with ADD column_name datatype. Let's have a look below to understand better.

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE [table_name]
  ADD [column_name] [datatype];
```

Query

```
ALTER TABLE Student ADD marks INT;
```

Output

id	FIRST_NAME	age	email	phone	marks
1	Shubham	23	shubham@gmail.com	9999999999	
2	Bhavika	21	bhavika@yahoo.com	8888888888	
3	Aman	21	aman@hotmail.com	7777777777	
4	Sonia	23	sonia@gmail.com	6666666666	
5	Kiran	19	kiran@yahoo.com	5555555555	

Conclusion

In conclusion, you can use ALTER Command whenever you want to change the data in an existing table like **datatype** from int to float and CHAR to VARCHAR, rename the table column name and add a new column, etc. In this article, we discussed all the Syntax of ALTER commands in the different databases with examples.