\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* FOREIGN KEY \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Foreign Key constraint is a key used to link two tables together.

A Foreign Key is a field (or collection of fields) in one table that refers to the Primary Key in another table.

Foreign Key

Primary Key

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Emp ID | Name | Department ID |
| 101 | Amit | 10 |
| 102 | Rohan | 10 |
| 103 | Suraj | 30 |
| 104 | Uday | 40 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Department ID | Department Name |
| 10 | HR |
| 30 | GL |
| 40 | EMP |

Here, **Department ID** is the Foreign key that establishes some link between both the tables

The table having foreign key is called child table and the reference table is the parent table.

We can make a Foreign key in SQL while creating a table or altering it later

**SYNTAX**

While Creating A Table

CREATE TABLE empdtl(EMP ID int primary key not null,Name varchar(20), Department ID int(2), address varchar(30));

Altering It Later

ALTER TABLE empdtl ADD FOREIGN KEY (Department ID) REFERENCES Departments (Department ID);

ALTER TABLE empdtl DROP FOREIGN KEY;

DROPPING A FOREIGN KEY

ALTER TABLE empdtl DROP FOREIGN KEY;