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SQL Keywords Reference

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This SQL keywords reference contains the reserved words in SQL.

SQL Keywords

Keyword	Description
ADD	Adds a column in an existing table
ADD CONSTRAINT	Adds a constraint after a table is already created
ALTER	Adds, deletes, or modifies columns in a table, or changes the data type of a column in a table
ALTER COLUMN	Changes the data type of a column in a table
ALTER TABLE	Adds, deletes, or modifies columns in a table
ALL	Returns true if all of the subquery values meet the condition
AND	Only includes rows where both conditions is true
ANY	Returns true if any of the subquery values meet the condition
AS	Renames a column or table with an alias
ASC	Sorts the result set in ascending order
BACKUP DATABASE	Creates a back up of an existing database
BETWEEN	Selects values within a given range
CASE	Creates different outputs based on conditions
CHECK	A constraint that limits the value that can be placed in a column
COLUMN	Changes the data type of a column or deletes a column in a table
CONSTRAINT	Adds or deletes a constraint
CREATE	Creates a database, index, view, table, or procedure
CREATE DATABASE	Creates a new SQL database

CREATE INDEX	Creates an index on a table (allows duplicate values)
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW	Updates a view
CREATE TABLE	Creates a new table in the database
CREATE PROCEDURE	Creates a stored procedure
CREATE UNIQUE INDEX	Creates a unique index on a table (no duplicate values)
CREATE VIEW	Creates a view based on the result set of a SELECT statement
DATABASE	Creates or deletes an SQL database
DEFAULT	A constraint that provides a default value for a column
DELETE	Deletes rows from a table
DESC	Sorts the result set in descending order
DISTINCT	Selects only distinct (different) values
DROP	Deletes a column, constraint, database, index, table, or view
DROP COLUMN	Deletes a column in a table
DROP CONSTRAINT	Deletes a UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY, or CHECK constraint
DROP DATABASE	Deletes an existing SQL database
DROP DEFAULT	Deletes a DEFAULT constraint
DROP INDEX	Deletes an index in a table
DROP TABLE	Deletes an existing table in the database
DROP VIEW	Deletes a view
EXEC	Executes a stored procedure
EXISTS	Tests for the existence of any record in a subquery
FOREIGN KEY	A constraint that is a key used to link two tables together
FROM	Specifies which table to select or delete data from
FULL OUTER JOIN	Returns all rows when there is a match in either left table or right table
GROUP BY	Groups the result set (used with aggregate functions: COUNT, MAX, MIN, SUM, AVG)
HAVING	Used instead of WHERE with aggregate functions
IN	Allows you to specify multiple values in a WHERE clause
INDEX	Creates or deletes an index in a table
INNER JOIN	Returns rows that have matching values in both tables
INSERT INTO	Inserts new rows in a table
INSERT INTO SELECT	Copies data from one table into another table

IS NULL	Tests for empty values
IS NOT NULL	Tests for non-empty values
JOIN	Joins tables
LEFT JOIN	Returns all rows from the left table, and the matching rows from the right table
LIKE	Searches for a specified pattern in a column
LIMIT	Specifies the number of records to return in the result set
NOT	Only includes rows where a condition is not true
NOT NULL	A constraint that enforces a column to not accept NULL values
OR	Includes rows where either condition is true
ORDER BY	Sorts the result set in ascending or descending order
OUTER JOIN	Returns all rows when there is a match in either left table or right table
PRIMARY KEY	A constraint that uniquely identifies each record in a database table
PROCEDURE	A stored procedure
RIGHT JOIN	Returns all rows from the right table, and the matching rows from the left table
ROWNUM	Specifies the number of records to return in the result set
SELECT	Selects data from a database
SELECT DISTINCT	Selects only distinct (different) values
SELECT INTO	Copies data from one table into a new table
SELECT TOP	Specifies the number of records to return in the result set
SET	Specifies which columns and values that should be updated in a table
TABLE	Creates a table, or adds, deletes, or modifies columns in a table, or deletes a table or data inside a table
TOP	Specifies the number of records to return in the result set
TRUNCATE TABLE	Deletes the data inside a table, but not the table itself
UNION	Combines the result set of two or more SELECT statements (only distinct values)
UNION ALL	Combines the result set of two or more SELECT statements (allows duplicate values)
UNIQUE	A constraint that ensures that all values in a column are unique
UPDATE	Updates existing rows in a table
VALUES	Specifies the values of an INSERT INTO statement
VIEW	Creates, updates, or deletes a view
WHERE	Filters a result set to include only records that fulfill a specified condition

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