**ALTER TABLE operations**

**1. ADD COLUMN**

**Definition:** Adds a new column to an existing table.  
**Syntax:**

ALTER TABLE table\_name

ADD COLUMN column\_name data\_type;

**2. DROP COLUMN**

**Definition:** Removes an existing column permanently from a table.  
**Syntax:**

ALTER TABLE table\_name

DROP COLUMN column\_name;

**3. RENAME COLUMN**

**Definition:** Renames an existing column (only name changes, data type stays the same).  
**Syntax (MySQL):**

ALTER TABLE table\_name

RENAME COLUMN old\_column\_name TO new\_column\_name;

**4. MODIFY COLUMN**

**Definition:** Changes the data type, size, or constraints of a column without renaming it.  
**Syntax (MySQL):**

ALTER TABLE table\_name

MODIFY COLUMN column\_name new\_data\_type;

**5. CHANGE COLUMN**

**Definition:** Renames a column **and** allows you to change its data type in the same command.  
**Syntax (MySQL):**

ALTER TABLE table\_name

CHANGE COLUMN old\_column\_name new\_column\_name new\_data\_type;

**6. RENAME TABLE**

**Definition:** Changes the name of the whole table.  
**Syntax:**

ALTER TABLE old\_table\_name

RENAME TO new\_table\_name;