**Types of Variables**

Every PL/SQL variable has a data type, which specifies a storage format, constraints, and a valid range of values. PL/SQL supports several data type categories, including scalar, reference, large object (LOB), and composite.

* + - **Scalar data types:** Scalar data types hold a single value. The value depends on the data type of the variable. For example, the v\_myName variable in the example is of type VARCHAR2. Therefore, v\_myName can hold a string value. PL/SQL also supports Boolean variables.
    - **Reference data types:** Reference data types hold values, called *pointers*, which point to a storage location.
    - LOB **data types:** LOB data types hold values, called *locators*, which specify the location of large objects (such as graphic images) that are stored outside the table.
    - **Composite data types:** Composite data types are available by using PL/SQL *collection* and *record* variables. PL/SQL collections and records contain internal elements that you can treat as individual variables.

Non-PL/SQL variables include host language variables declared in precompiler programs, screen fields in Forms applications, and host variables.