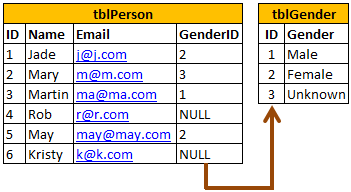
**Cascading referential integrity constraint - Part 5**

In [Part 3 of this video series, we have seen how to create tables (tblPerson and tblGender) and enforce primary and foreign key constraints](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2012/08/creating-and-working-with-tables-part-3.html). In [Part 4, we have learnt adding a default constraint.](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2012/08/default-constraint-in-sql-server-part-4.html) Please watch Parts 3 and 4, before continuing with this session.  
  
  
In this video, we will learn about **Cascading referential integrity constraint**  
  
  
Cascading referential integrity constraint allows to define the actions Microsoft SQL Server should take when a user attempts to delete or update a key to which an existing foreign keys points.  
  
  
**For example**, consider the 2 tables shown below. If you delete row with **ID = 1** from **tblGender**table, then row with **ID = 3** from **tblPerson**table becomes an **orphan record**. You will not be able to tell the Gender for this row. So, Cascading referential integrity constraint can be used to define actions Microsoft SQL Server should take when this happens. By default, we get an error and the DELETE or UPDATE statement is rolled back.  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
**However, you have the following options when setting up Cascading referential integrity constraint**  
**1. No Action**: This is the default behaviour. No Action specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, an error is raised and the DELETE or UPDATE is rolled back.  
  
  
**2. Cascade**: Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are also deleted or updated.  
  
  
**3. Set NULL**: Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are set to NULL.    
  
  
**4. Set Default**: Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are set to default values.