Oracle Database 12c: SQL Workshop I

Student Guide - Volume I

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Restricting and Sorting Data

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Limit the rows that are retrieved by a query
- Sort the rows that are retrieved by a query
- Use ampersand substitution to restrict and sort output at run time

When retrieving data from the database, you may need to do the following:

- Restrict the rows of data that are displayed
- Specify the order in which the rows are displayed

This lesson explains the SQL statements that you use to perform the actions listed above.

Lesson Agenda

- Limiting rows with:
  - The `WHERE` clause
  - The comparison operators using `=`, `<=`, `BETWEEN`, `IN`, `LIKE`, and `NULL` conditions
  - Logical conditions using `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators
- Rules of precedence for operators in an expression
- Sorting rows using the `ORDER BY` clause
- SQL Row limiting clause in a query
- Substitution variables
- `DEFINE` and `VERIFY` commands

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Limiting Rows Using a Selection

EMPLOYEES

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	100	King	AD_PRES	90
2	101	Kochhar	AD_VP	90
3	102	De Haan	AD_VP	90
4	103	Hunold	IT_PROG	60
5	104	Ernst	IT_PROG	60
6	107	Lorentz	IT_PROG	60

...

"retrieve all employees in department 90"

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	100	King	AD_PRES	90
2	101	Kochhar	AD_VP	90
3	102	De Haan	AD_VP	90

In the slide example, assume that you want to display all the employees in department 90. The rows with a value of 90 in the `DEPARTMENT_ID` column are the only ones that are returned. This method of restriction is the basis of the `WHERE` clause in SQL.

Comparison Operators

Operator	Meaning
=	Equal to
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
<>	Not equal to
BETWEEN ...AND...	Between two values (inclusive)
IN(set)	Match any of a list of values
LIKE	Match a character pattern
IS NULL	Is a null value

Comparison operators are used in conditions that compare one expression with another value or expression. They are used in the `WHERE` clause in the following format:

Syntax

```
... WHERE expr operator value
```

Example

```
... WHERE hire_date = '01-JAN-05'
... WHERE salary >= 6000
... WHERE last_name = 'Smith'
```

Remember, an alias cannot be used in the `WHERE` clause.

Note: The symbols `!=` and `^=` can also represent the *not equal* to condition

Using Comparison Operators

```
SELECT last_name, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary <= 3000 ;
```

	LAST_NAME	SALARY
1	Matos	2600
2	Vargas	2500

In the example, the `SELECT` statement retrieves the last name and salary from the `EMPLOYEES` table for any employee whose salary is less than or equal to $3,000. Note that there is an explicit value supplied to the `WHERE` clause. The explicit value of `3000` is compared to the salary value in the `SALARY` column of the `EMPLOYEES` table.

Range Conditions Using the BETWEEN Operator

Use the BETWEEN operator to display rows based on a range of values:

```
SELECT last_name, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary BETWEEN 2500 AND 3500;
```

Lower limit Upper limit

	LAST_NAME	SALARY
1	Rajs	3500
2	Davies	3100
3	Matos	2600
4	Vargas	2500

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You can display rows based on a range of values using the BETWEEN operator. The range that you specify contains a lower limit and an upper limit.

The SELECT statement in the slide returns rows from the EMPLOYEES table for any employee whose salary is between $2,500 and $3,500.
Values that are specified with the BETWEEN operator are inclusive. However, you must specify the lower limit first.

You can also use the BETWEEN operator on character values:

```
SELECT last_name
FROM   employees
WHERE  last_name BETWEEN 'King' AND 'Smith';
```

	LAST_NAME
1	King
2	Kochhar
3	Lorentz
4	Matos
5	Mourgos
6	Rajs

Membership Condition Using the IN Operator

Use the IN operator to test for values in a list:

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, salary, manager_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  manager_id IN (100, 101, 201) ;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	SALARY	MANAGER_ID
1	101	Kochhar	17000	100
2	102	De Haan	17000	100
3	124	Mourgos	5800	100
4	149	Zlotkey	10500	100
5	201	Hartstein	13000	100
6	200	Whalen	4400	101
7	205	Higgins	12008	101
8	202	Fay	6000	201

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To test for values in a specified set of values, use the IN operator. The condition defined using the IN operator is also known as the *membership condition*.

The slide example displays employee numbers, last names, salaries, and manager's employee numbers for all the employees whose manager's employee number is 100, 101, or 201.

Note: The set of values can be specified in any random order—for example, (201,100,101).

The IN operator can be used with any data type. The following example returns a row from the EMPLOYEES table, for any employee whose last name is included in the list of names in the WHERE clause:

```
SELECT employee_id, manager_id, department_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  last_name IN ('Hartstein', 'Vargas');
```

If characters or dates are used in a list, they must be enclosed with single quotation marks ('').

Note: The IN operator is internally evaluated by the Oracle server as a set of OR conditions, such as a=value1 or a=value2 or a=value3. Therefore, using the IN operator has no performance benefits and is used only for logical simplicity.

Pattern Matching Using the LIKE Operator

- Use the LIKE operator to perform wildcard searches of valid search string values.
- Search conditions can contain either literal characters or numbers:
  - % denotes zero or more characters.
  - _ denotes one character.

```
SELECT   first_name
FROM     employees
WHERE    first_name LIKE 'S%';
```

	FIRST_NAME
1	Shelley
2	Steven

You may not always know the exact value to search for. You can select rows that match a character pattern by using the LIKE operator. The character pattern–matching operation is referred to as a *wildcard* search. Two symbols can be used to construct the search string.

Symbol	Description
%	Represents any sequence of zero or more characters
_	Represents any single character

The SELECT statement in the slide returns the first name from the EMPLOYEES table for any employee whose first name begins with the letter “S.” Note the uppercase “S.” Consequently, names beginning with a lowercase “s” are not returned.

The LIKE operator can be used as a shortcut for some BETWEEN comparisons. The following example displays the last names and hire dates of all employees who joined between January, 2005 and December, 2005:

```
SELECT last_name, hire_date
FROM   employees
WHERE  hire_date LIKE '%05';
```

	LAST_NAME	HIRE_DATE
1	Kochhar	21-SEP-05
2	Davies	29-JAN-05
3	Fay	17-AUG-05

Combining Wildcard Characters

- You can combine the two wildcard characters (%, _) with literal characters for pattern matching:

```
SELECT last_name
FROM   employees
WHERE  last_name LIKE '_o%' ;
```

	LAST_NAME
1	Kochhar
2	Lorentz
3	Mourgos

- You can use the ESCAPE identifier to search for the actual % and _ symbols.

The % and _ symbols can be used in any combination with literal characters. The example in the slide displays the names of all employees whose last names have the letter "o" as the second character.

ESCAPE Identifier

When you need to have an exact match for the actual % and _ characters, use the ESCAPE identifier. This option specifies what the escape character is. If you want to search for strings that contain SA_, you can use the following SQL statement:

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id
FROM   employees WHERE  job_id LIKE '%SA\_%' ESCAPE '\';
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID
1	149	Zlotkey	SA_MAN
2	174	Abel	SA_REP
3	176	Taylor	SA_REP
4	178	Grant	SA_REP

The ESCAPE identifier identifies the backslash (\) as the escape character. In the SQL statement, the escape character precedes the underscore (_). This causes the Oracle server to interpret the underscore literally.

Using the NULL Conditions

Test for nulls with the IS NULL operator.

```
SELECT last_name, manager_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  manager_id IS NULL ;
```

	LAST_NAME	MANAGER_ID
1	King	(null)

The NULL conditions include the IS NULL condition and the IS NOT NULL condition.

The IS NULL condition tests for nulls. A null value means that the value is unavailable, unassigned, unknown, or inapplicable. Therefore, you cannot test with =, because a null cannot be equal or unequal to any value. The example in the slide retrieves the last names and managers of all employees who do not have a manager.

Here is another example: To display the last name, job ID, and commission for all employees who are *not* entitled to receive a commission, use the following SQL statement:

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, commission_pct
FROM   employees
WHERE  commission_pct IS NULL;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	COMMISSION_PCT
1	King	AD_PRES	(null)
2	Kochhar	AD_VP	(null)
3	De Haan	AD_VP	(null)
4	Hunold	IT_PROG	(null)
5	Ernst	IT_PROG	(null)
6	Lorentz	IT_PROG	(null)

...

Defining Conditions Using the Logical Operators

Operator	Meaning
AND	Returns TRUE if *both* component conditions are true
OR	Returns TRUE if *either* component condition is true
NOT	Returns TRUE if the condition is false

A logical condition combines the result of two component conditions to produce a single result based on those conditions or it inverts the result of a single condition. A row is returned only if the overall result of the condition is true.

Three logical operators are available in SQL:

- AND
- OR
- NOT

All the examples so far have specified only one condition in the WHERE clause. You can use several conditions in a single WHERE clause using the AND and OR operators.

Using the AND Operator

AND requires both the component conditions to be true:

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary >= 10000
AND    job_id LIKE '%MAN%' ;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	149	Zlotkey	SA_MAN	10500
2	201	Hartstein	MK_MAN	13000

In the example, both the component conditions must be true for any record to be selected. Therefore, only those employees who have a job title that contains the string 'MAN' *and* earn $10,000 or more are selected.

All character searches are case-sensitive, that is, no rows are returned if 'MAN' is not uppercase. Further, character strings must be enclosed with quotation marks.

AND Truth Table

The following table shows the results of combining two expressions with AND:

AND	TRUE	FALSE	NULL
TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	NULL
FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
NULL	NULL	FALSE	NULL

Using the OR Operator

OR requires either component condition to be true:

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary >= 10000
OR     job_id LIKE '%MAN%' ;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	100	King	AD_PRES	24000
2	101	Kochhar	AD_VP	17000
3	102	De Haan	AD_VP	17000
4	124	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800
5	149	Zlotkey	SA_MAN	10500
6	174	Abel	SA_REP	11000
7	201	Hartstein	MK_MAN	13000
8	205	Higgins	AC_MGR	12008

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In the example, either component condition can be true for any record to be selected. Therefore, any employee who has a job ID that contains the string 'MAN' *or* earns $10,000 or more is selected.

OR Truth Table

The following table shows the results of combining two expressions with OR:

OR	TRUE	FALSE	NULL
TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE
FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	NULL
NULL	TRUE	NULL	NULL

Using the NOT Operator

```
SELECT last_name, job_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id
       NOT IN ('IT_PROG', 'ST_CLERK', 'SA_REP') ;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID
1	De Haan	AD_VP
2	Fay	MK_REP
3	Gietz	AC_ACCOUNT
4	Hartstein	MK_MAN
5	Higgins	AC_MGR
6	King	AD_PRES
7	Kochhar	AD_VP
8	Mourgos	ST_MAN
9	Whalen	AD_ASST
10	Zlotkey	SA_MAN

The example in the slide displays the last name and job ID of all employees whose job ID *is not* IT_PROG, ST_CLERK, or SA_REP.

NOT Truth Table

The following table shows the result of applying the NOT operator to a condition:

NOT	TRUE	FALSE	NULL
	FALSE	TRUE	NULL

Note: The NOT operator can also be used with other SQL operators, such as BETWEEN, LIKE, and NULL.

```
... WHERE  job_id     NOT  IN ('AC_ACCOUNT', 'AD_VP')
... WHERE  salary     NOT  BETWEEN  10000 AND  15000
... WHERE  last_name NOT  LIKE '%A%'
... WHERE  commission_pct  IS   NOT  NULL
```

Lesson Agenda

- Limiting rows with:
  - The `WHERE` clause
  - The comparison conditions using `=`, `<=`, `BETWEEN`, `IN`, `LIKE`, and `NULL` operators
  - Logical conditions using `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators
- Rules of precedence for operators in an expression
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Rules of Precedence

Operator	Meaning
1	Arithmetic operators
2	Concatenation operator
3	Comparison conditions
4	IS [NOT] NULL, LIKE, [NOT] IN
5	[NOT] BETWEEN
6	Not equal to
7	NOT logical operator
8	AND logical operator
9	OR logical operator

You can use parentheses to override rules of precedence.

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The rules of precedence determine the order in which expressions are evaluated and calculated. The table in the slide lists the default order of precedence. However, you can override the default order by using parentheses around the expressions that you want to calculate first.

Rules of Precedence

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id = 'SA_REP'
OR     job_id = 'AD_PRES'
AND    salary > 15000;
```

1

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	King	AD_PRES	24000
2	Abel	SA_REP	11000
3	Taylor	SA_REP	8600
4	Grant	SA_REP	7000

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  (job_id = 'SA_REP'
OR     job_id = 'AD_PRES')
AND    salary > 15000;
```

2

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	King	AD_PRES	24000

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1. **Precedence of the AND Operator: Example**

   In this example, there are two conditions:

   - The first condition is that the job ID is AD_PRES *and* the salary is greater than $15,000.
   - The second condition is that the job ID is SA_REP.

   Therefore, the SELECT statement reads as follows:

   "Select the row if an employee is a president *and* earns more than $15,000, *or* if the employee is a sales representative."

2. **Using Parentheses: Example**

   In this example, there are two conditions:

   - The first condition is that the job ID is AD_PRES *or* SA_REP.
   - The second condition is that the salary is greater than $15,000.

   Therefore, the SELECT statement reads as follows:

   "Select the row if an employee is a president *or* a sales representative, *and* if the employee earns more than $15,000."

Lesson Agenda

- Limiting rows with:
  - The `WHERE` clause
  - The comparison conditions using `=`, `<=`, `BETWEEN`, `IN`, `LIKE`, and `NULL` operators
  - Logical conditions using `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators
- Rules of precedence for operators in an expression
- Sorting rows using the `ORDER BY` clause
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Using the ORDER BY Clause

- Sort the retrieved rows with the ORDER BY clause:
  - ASC: Ascending order, default
  - DESC: Descending order
- The ORDER BY clause comes last in the SELECT statement:

```
SELECT   last_name, job_id, department_id, hire_date
FROM     employees
ORDER BY hire_date ;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID	HIRE_DATE
1	De Haan	AD_VP	90	13-JAN-01
2	Gietz	AC_ACCOUNT	110	07-JUN-02
3	Higgins	AC_MGR	110	07-JUN-02
4	King	AD_PRES	90	17-JUN-03
5	Whalen	AD_ASST	10	17-SEP-03
6	Rajs	ST_CLERK	50	17-OCT-03

...

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The order of rows that are returned in a query result is undefined. The ORDER BY clause can be used to sort the rows. However, if you use the ORDER BY clause, it must be the last clause of the SQL statement. Further, you can specify an expression, an alias, or a column position as the sort condition.

Syntax

```
SELECT          expr
FROM            table
[WHERE          condition(s)]
[ORDER BY  {column, expr, numeric_position} [ASC|DESC]];
```

In the syntax:

ORDER BY	specifies the order in which the retrieved rows are displayed
ASC	orders the rows in ascending order (This is the default order.)
DESC	orders the rows in descending order

If the ORDER BY clause is not used, the sort order is undefined, and the Oracle server may not fetch rows in the same order for the same query twice. Use the ORDER BY clause to display the rows in a specific order.

Note: Use the keywords NULLS FIRST or NULLS LAST to specify whether returned rows containing null values should appear first or last in the ordering sequence.

Sorting

- Sorting in descending order:

```
SELECT   last_name, job_id, department_id, hire_date
FROM     employees
ORDER BY hire_date DESC ;
```

1

- Sorting by column alias:

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, salary*12 annsal
FROM   employees
ORDER BY annsal ;
```

2

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The default sort order is ascending:

- Numeric values are displayed with the lowest values first (for example, 1 to 999).
- Date values are displayed with the earliest value first (for example, 01-JAN-92 before 01-JAN-95).
- Character values are displayed in the alphabetical order (for example, “A” first and “Z” last).
- Null values are displayed last for ascending sequences and first for descending sequences.
- You can also sort by a column that is not in the `SELECT` list.

Examples

1. To reverse the order in which the rows are displayed, specify the `DESC` keyword after the column name in the `ORDER BY` clause. The example in the slide sorts the result by the most recently hired employee.
2. You can also use a column alias in the `ORDER BY` clause. The slide example sorts the data by annual salary.

Note: The `DESC` keyword used here for sorting in descending order should not be confused with the `DESC` keyword used to describe table structures.

Sorting

- Sorting by using the column's numeric position:

```
SELECT   last_name, job_id, department_id, hire_date
FROM     employees
ORDER BY 3;
```

3

- Sorting by multiple columns:

```
SELECT last_name, department_id, salary
FROM   employees
ORDER BY department_id, salary DESC;
```

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Examples

3. You can sort query results by specifying the numeric position of the column in the `SELECT` clause. The example in the slide sorts the result by the `department_id` as this column is at the third position in the `SELECT` clause.
4. You can sort query results by more than one column. The sort limit is the number of columns in the given table. In the `ORDER BY` clause, specify the columns and separate the column names using commas. If you want to reverse the order of a column, specify `DESC` after its name. The result of the query example shown in the slide is sorted by department_id in ascending order and also by salary in descending order.

Lesson Agenda

- Limiting rows with:
  - The `WHERE` clause
  - The comparison conditions using `=`, `<=`, `BETWEEN`, `IN`, `LIKE`, and `NULL` operators
  - Logical conditions using `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators
- Rules of precedence for operators in an expression
- Sorting rows using the `ORDER BY` clause
- SQL Row limiting clause in a query
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SQL Row Limiting Clause

- The `row_limiting_clause` allows you to limit the rows that are returned by the query.
- Queries that order data and then limit row output are widely used and are often referred to as `Top-N` queries.
- You can specify the number of rows or percentage of rows to return with the `FETCH_FIRST` keywords.
- You can use the `OFFSET` keyword to specify that the returned rows begin with a row after the first row of the full result set.
- The `WITH TIES` keyword includes additional rows with the same ordering keys as the last row of the row-limited result set (you must specify `ORDER BY` in the query).

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SQL `SELECT` syntax is enhanced to allow a `row_limiting_clause`, which limits the number of rows that are returned in the result set. The `row_limiting_clause` provides both easy-to-understand syntax and expressive power. Limiting the number or rows returned can be valuable for reporting, analysis, data browsing, and other tasks. Queries that order data and then limit row output are widely used and are often referred to as Top-N queries.

You can specify the number of rows or percentage of rows to return with the `FETCH_FIRST` keywords.

You can use the `OFFSET` keyword to specify that the returned rows begin with a row after the first row of the full result set. The `WITH TIES` keyword includes rows with the same ordering keys as the last row of the row-limited result set (you must specify `ORDER BY` in the query). For consistent results, specify the `order_by_clause` to ensure a deterministic sort order.

The `row_limiting_clause` follows the `ANSI` SQL international standard for enhanced compatibility and easier migration.

Using the DEFINE Command

- Use the DEFINE command to create and assign a value to a variable.
- Use the UNDEFINE command to remove a variable.

```
DEFINE employee_num = 200

SELECT employee_id, last_name, salary, department_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  employee_id = &employee_num ;

UNDEFINE employee_num
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	SALARY	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	200	Whalen	4400	10

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The example shown creates a substitution variable for an employee number by using the DEFINE command. At run time, this displays the employee number, name, salary, and department number for that employee.

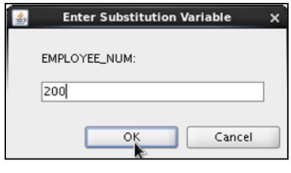
Because the variable is created using the SQL Developer DEFINE command, the user is not prompted to enter a value for the employee number. Instead, the defined variable value is automatically substituted in the SELECT statement.

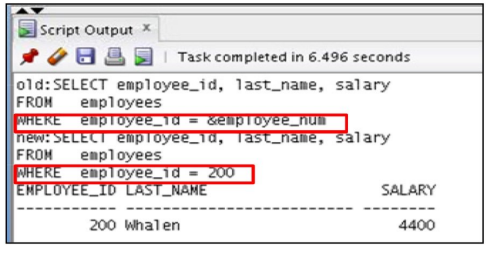
The EMPLOYEE_NUM substitution variable is present in the session until the user undefines it or exits the SQL Developer session.

Using the VERIFY Command

Use the VERIFY command to toggle the display of the substitution variable, both before and after SQL Developer replaces substitution variables with values:

```
SET VERIFY ON
SELECT employee_id, last_name, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  employee_id = &employee_num;
```





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To confirm the changes in the SQL statement, use the VERIFY command. Setting SET VERIFY ON forces SQL Developer to display the text of a command after it replaces substitution variables with values. To see the VERIFY output, you should use the Run Script (F5) icon in the SQL Worksheet. SQL Developer displays the text of a command after it replaces substitution variables with values, in the Script Output tab as shown in the slide.

The example in the slide displays the new value of the EMPLOYEE_ID column in the SQL statement followed by the output.

SQL*Plus System Variables

SQL*Plus uses various system variables that control the working environment. One of the variables is VERIFY. To obtain a complete list of all the system variables, you can issue the SHOW ALL command on the SQL*Plus command prompt.

Quiz

Which four of the following are valid operators for the `WHERE` clause?

a. `>=`
b. `IS NULL`
c. `!=`
d. `IS LIKE`
e. `IN BETWEEN`
f. `<>`

Answer: a, b, c, f

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Use the `WHERE` clause to restrict rows of output:
  - Use the comparison conditions
  - Use the `BETWEEN`, `IN`, `LIKE`, and `NULL` operators
  - Apply the logical `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators
- Use the `ORDER BY` clause to sort rows of output:

```
SELECT  {*|[DISTINCT] column|expression [alias],...}
FROM    table
[WHERE  condition(s)]
[ORDER BY {column, expr, alias} [ASC|DESC]] ;
```

- Use ampersand substitution to restrict and sort output at run time

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In this lesson, you should have learned about restricting and sorting rows that are returned by the `SELECT` statement. You should also have learned how to implement various operators and conditions.

By using the substitution variables, you can add flexibility to your SQL statements. This enables the queries to prompt for the filter condition for the rows during run time.

Practice 3: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Selecting data and changing the order of the rows that are displayed
- Restricting rows by using the `WHERE` clause
- Sorting rows by using the `ORDER BY` clause
- Using substitution variables to add flexibility to your SQL `SELECT` statements

In this practice, you build more reports, including statements that use the `WHERE` clause and the `ORDER BY` clause. You make the SQL statements more reusable and generic by including the ampersand substitution.