

# Relational DB & SQL - C11

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## String Functions

**To do:** Go through the activity to the end

### SUBSTRING(), LEFT(), RIGHT() Functions

**SUBSTRING()** function enables you to extract a substring from a string. The return value is text.

Here is the syntax of the **SUBSTRING()** function:

```
1 SUBSTRING(string, start_postion, [length])
```

**SUBSTRING()** function takes three arguments

**string:** The source string

**start\_position:** The position for extraction. If the **start\_position** is a positive integer, the **SUBSTRING()** function returns a substring starting from the beginning of the string. The first character has an index of 1. If the **start\_position** is a negative integer, the returned substring consists of the **length** number of character starting from the end of the string. The last character has an index of -1.

**length:** Optional. It's the number of characters to extract. If it is omitted then **SUBSTRING()** returns all remaining characters from the starting\_postion.

If any argument is **NULL**, the **SUBSTRING()** function will return **NULL**.

Let's see **SUBSTRING()** function in an example.

❶ The following query takes the string "Clarusway" starting at position 1, which is character "C" and extracts 3 characters that are 'Cla'.

query:

```
1 SELECT SUBSTRING('Clarusway', 1, 3) AS substr
```

result:



1	substr
2	-----
3	Cl

❷ The following query starts to extract from position 4 which is 'r' and to the end of the string since the length argument is omitted.

query:

1	SELECT SUBSTRING('Clarusway', 1, 3) AS substr
---	---

result:

1	substr
2	-----
3	cl

❸ The following query starts from position -5 to extract the first character.

query:

1	SELECT SUBSTRING('Clarusway', -5, 7) AS substr
---	--

result:

1	substr
2	-----
3	C

❹ The following query starts from position -6 and extracts 2 characters.

query :

1	SELECT SUBSTRING('Clarusway', -6, 2) AS substr
---	--

output :

1	substr
2	-----
3	

**LEFT(string, number of characters)**

Returns the left part of a character string with the specified number of characters.

**LEFT()** function takes three arguments

**string:** The source string. Can be a constant, variable, or column.

**number of characters:** Is a positive integer that specifies how many characters will be returned.

query:



```
1 SELECT LEFT('Clarusway', 2) AS leftchars
```

result:

```
1 leftchars
2 -----
3 Cl
```

**RIGHT(string, number of characters)**

Returns the right part of a character string with the specified number of characters.

**RIGHT()** function takes three arguments

**string:** The source string. Can be a constant, variable, or column.

**number of characters:** Is a positive integer that specifies how many characters will be returned.

query:

```
1 SELECT RIGHT('Clarusway', 2) AS rightchars
```

result:

```
1 rightchars
2 -----
3 ay
```

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