



TOPSTechnologies

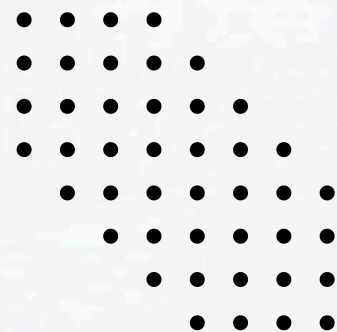
ALTER COMMAND

Presented for :

TOPs Technologies

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Que 1

The ALTER command in SQL is used to modify the structure of an existing database table. It allows you to add, delete, or modify columns, as well as manage constraints and indexes. The ALTER command is part of Data Definition Language (DDL) in SQL.

Common Uses of the ALTER Command :

- Add a Column: Add a new column to a table.
- Modify a Column: Change the data type, size, or constraints of an existing column.
- Rename a Column: Rename an existing column (syntax varies by database system).
- Drop a Column: Remove a column from a table.
- Add or Drop Constraints: Add or remove constraints like primary keys, foreign keys, or unique constraints.
- Rename a Table: Change the name of an existing table (syntax varies by database system).
- Add or Remove Indexes: Add or drop an index (database-specific).

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1. Add a Column

To add a new column to an existing table, use the ADD clause.

Syntax :

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD column_name data_type [constraints];
```

Example :

```
ALTER TABLE employees  
ADD age INT;
```

2. Modify a Column

To change the data type, size, or constraints of an existing column, use the MODIFY clause (or equivalent in some databases).

Syntax :

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
MODIFY column_name new_data_type [constraints];
```

Example :

```
ALTER TABLE employees  
MODIFY age SMALLINT;
```

3. Drop a Column

To remove an existing column from a table, use the DROP COLUMN clause.

Syntax :

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP COLUMN column_name;
```

Example :

```
ALTER TABLE employees  
DROP COLUMN age;
```