What is Cursor in SQL?

In SQL, a **cursor** is a database object used to retrieve and manipulate rows returned by a query one at a time. It allows you to perform row-by-row processing for complex operations that can't be handled easily with set-based SQL commands.

Key points:

- Cursors are commonly used in stored procedures and triggers.

- They have four steps: **DECLARE**, **OPEN**, **FETCH**, and **CLOSE**.

- They are slower compared to set-based operations, so they should be used sparingly.

What is the difference between implicit and explicit cursor?

FEATURE	IMPLICIT CURSOR	EXPLICIT CURSOR
DECLARATION	Automatically created by SQL.	Declared explicitly by the user.
CONTROL	SQL handles lifecycle (open, fetch, close).	User manages lifecycle manually.
USAGE COMPLEXITY	Simple operations.	Complex row-by-row operations.
FLEXIBILITY	Limited control.	Full control over query processing.