**Cursor Syntax**

CUROSR CursorName IS SELECT statement;

1. **Opening a cursor**

* Opening a cursor executes the query and creates the active set that contains all rows, which meet the query search criteria.
* An open statement retrieves records from a database table and places the records in the cursor. (i.e. named private SQL area in memory).
* A cursor is opened in the Server’s memory.

OPEN CursorName;

1. **Fetching a record from the cursor**

* The fetch statement retrieves the rows from the active set opened in the Server into memory variables declared in the PL/SQL code block on the client one row at a time.
* The memory variables are opened on the client machine.
* Each time a fetch is executed, the cursor pointer is advanced to the next row in the active data set.
* Standard loop structure (Loop-End loop) is used to fetch records from the cursor into memory variables one row at a time.
* There must be a memory variable for each column value of the Active Data Set. Data types must match. These variables will be declared in the DECLARE section of the PL/SQL block.

FETCH CursorName INTO variable1, variable2…;

1. **Closing a cursor**

* The close statement disables the cursor and the active set becomes undefined. This will release the memory occupied by the cursor and its Data Set both on the Client and on the Server.
* Once a cursor is closed, the reopen statement causes the cursor to be reopened.

CLOSE CursorName;