

Querying Data with the SELECT Statement



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You can think of a SELECT statement as a question you are asking the database.

Example Questions

**Who are all my
contacts?**

**How many
contacts do I have?**

**Who are all my
contacts with a
first name of Jon?**

A Simple Query With SELECT

SELECT CLAUSE

SELECT 'Hello','World';

SELECT LIST

The SELECT List

Most of the time it contains a list of columns from a table you want to query.

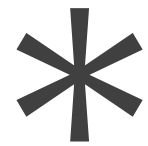
Then, a FROM clause is required.

After every column comes a comma.

Except: no comma after the last column.

```
SELECT <COLUMN_NAME>, <COLUMN_NAME> FROM <TABLE_NAME>;
```

```
SELECT      first_name,          last_name      FROM      person      ;
```



**This wildcard "SELECT list" character
pulls all the columns from a table**

BAD PRACTICE!



On my screen, these are both not centered, but are about 2/3 down the slide. Also, font sizes are different on either side.

FROM Clause

Defines the table you want to query

Multiple-Table FROM Clauses covered later in this course!

Qualifying Column Name with Table Name

```
SELECT    first_name,          last_name    FROM    person    ;
```

```
SELECT person.first_name, person.last_name    FROM    person    ;
```

Good Practice



Aliasing the Table Name

```
SELECT person.first_name, person.last_name FROM person ;
```

```
SELECT p.first_name, p.last_name FROM person p ;
```

Best Practice



Ways to Constrain the Number of Results

WHERE CLAUSE

DISTINCT Qualifier

The WHERE clause is covered in the next module!

NOT DISTINCT



What are the first names of all the people I know?

```
SELECT p.first_name FROM person p ;
```

first_name

Jon

Jon

Fritz

Shannon

Jason

Jason

Brian

Brian

DISTINCT



What are all **unique** first names of the people I know?

first_name

Jon

Fritz

Shannon

Jason

Brian

```
SELECT  DISTINCT  p.first_name  FROM  person p ;
```

Summary

Query data with the SELECT command

The SELECT list defines the columns

The FROM clause defines the table

DISTINCT constrains results to unique values