

Understanding Basic SQL Syntax



Jon Flanders

@jonflanders www.jonflanders.com

A SQL Statement is an expression that tells a database what you want it to do.

SELECT CLAUSE

FROM CLAUSE

SELECT first_name

FROM person ;

KEYWORD

IDENTIFIER

KEYWORD

IDENTIFIER

Basic SQL Commands

SELECT

id	first_name	last_name
1	Jon	Flanders

Retrieves one or more rows from one or more tables

```
SELECT first_name, last_name FROM contacts;
```

Basic SQL Commands

INSERT

Adds one or more rows into a table

```
INSERT INTO contacts (first_name, last_name)  
VALUES ('Fritz','Onion');
```

id	first_name	last_name
1	Jon	Flanders
2	Fritz	Onion

Basic SQL Commands

UPDATE

Modifies one or more rows in a table

```
UPDATE contacts SET last_name = 'Ahern' WHERE id = 1;
```

id	first_name	last_name
1	Jon	Ahern

Basic SQL Commands

DELETE

id	first_name	last_name
1	Jon	Flanders
2	Fritz	Onion

Removes one or more rows from one table

DELETE FROM contacts where id = 2;

More on these commands in later modules!

Course Housekeeping

I'll be using MySQL

ANSI SQL Only

SQL Keywords will be in upper-case

Table names will be singular

Column names will never be repeated

Summary

- **Once you understand the basics of SQL**