Database Programming with PL/SQL
2-2: Recognizing PL/SQL Lexical Units
Practice Activities

Vocabulary

Identify the vocabulary word for each definition below:

Literal	An explicit numeric, character string, date, or Boolean value that is not represented by an identifier.
Delimiters	Symbols that have special meaning to an Oracle database.
Reserved Words	Words that have special meaning to an Oracle database and cannot be used as identifiers.
Comments	Describe the purpose and use of each code segment and are ignored by PL/SQL.
Lexical Units	Building blocks of any PL/SQL block and are sequences of characters including letters, digits, tabs, returns, and symbols.
Identifier	A name, up to 30 characters in length, given to a PL/SQL object.

Try It / Solve It Questions

1. Identify each of the following identifiers as valid or invalid. If invalid, specify why.

Identifier	Valid (X)	Invalid (X)	Why Invalid?
Today	X		
Last name		X	Contains spaces
today's_date		X	Contains apostrophe
number_of_days_in_february_this_ year		X	Over30 characters
Isleap$year	X		
#number		X	Must begin with letter
NUMBER#	X		
Number1to7	X		

2. Identify the reserved words in the following list.

Word	Reserved? Y/N
create	Y
make	N
table	Y
seat	N
alter	Y
rename	Y
row	Y
number	Y
web	N

3. What kind of lexical unit (for example Reserved word, Delimiter, Literal, Comment) is each of the following?

Value	Lexical Unit
SELECT	Reserved Word
:=	Delimiter
'TEST'	Literal
FALSE	Literal
-- new process	Comment
FROM	Reserved Word
/* select the country with the highest elevation */	Comment
v_test	Identifier
4.09	Literal