# SQL - TOP, LIMIT or ROWNUM Clause

The SQL **TOP** clause is used to fetch a TOP N number or X percent records from a table.

**Note:** All the databases do not support TOP clause. For example MySQL supports **LIMIT** clause to fetch limited number of records and Oracle uses**ROWNUM** to fetch limited number of records.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of TOP clause with SELECT statement would be as follows:

SELECT TOP number|percent column\_name(s)

FROM table\_name

WHERE [condition]

Example:

Consider the CUSTOMERS table having the following records:

+----+----------+-----+-----------+----------+

| ID | NAME | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |

+----+----------+-----+-----------+----------+

| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |

| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi | 1500.00 |

| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota | 2000.00 |

| 4 | Chaitali | 25 | Mumbai | 6500.00 |

| 5 | Hardik | 27 | Bhopal | 8500.00 |

| 6 | Komal | 22 | MP | 4500.00 |

| 7 | Muffy | 24 | Indore | 10000.00 |

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Following is an example on SQL server, which would fetch top 3 records from CUSTOMERS table:

SQL> SELECT TOP 3 \* FROM CUSTOMERS;

This would produce the following result:

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| ID | NAME | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |

| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi | 1500.00 |

| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota | 2000.00 |

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If you are using MySQL server, then here is an equivalent example:

SQL> SELECT \* FROM CUSTOMERS

LIMIT 3;

This would produce the following result:

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| ID | NAME | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |

| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi | 1500.00 |

| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota | 2000.00 |

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If you are using Oracle server, then here is an equivalent example:

SQL> SELECT \* FROM CUSTOMERS

WHERE ROWNUM <= 3;

This would produce the following result:

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| ID | NAME | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |

+----+---------+-----+-----------+---------+

| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |

| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi | 1500.00 |

| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota | 2000.00 |

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