

SQL UPDATE Statement

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The SQL UPDATE Statement

The **UPDATE** statement is used to modify the existing records in a table.

UPDATE Syntax

```
UPDATE table_name
SET column1 = value1, column2 = value2, ...
WHERE condition;
```

Note: Be careful when updating records in a table! Notice the **WHERE** clause in the **UPDATE** statement. The **WHERE** clause specifies which record(s) that should be updated. If you omit the **WHERE** clause, all records in the table will be updated!

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the **Customers** table used in the examples:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209	Germany

2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

UPDATE Table

The following SQL statement updates the first customer (CustomerID = 1) with a new contact person *and* a new city.

Example

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```
UPDATE Customers
SET ContactName = 'Alfred Schmidt', City= 'Frankfurt'
WHERE CustomerID = 1;
```

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The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Alfred Schmidt	Obere Str. 57	Frankfurt	12209	Germany

2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

UPDATE Multiple Records

It is the **WHERE** clause that determines how many records will be updated.

The following SQL statement will update the ContactName to "Juan" for all records where country is "Mexico":

Example

```
UPDATE Customers  
SET ContactName='Juan'  
WHERE Country='Mexico';
```

Try it Yourself »

The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Alfred Schmidt	Obere Str. 57	Frankfurt	12209	Germany
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Juan	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Juan	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

Update Warning!

Be careful when updating records. If you omit the **WHERE** clause, ALL records will be updated!

Example

```
UPDATE Customers  
SET ContactName='Juan';
```

Try it Yourself »

The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Juan	Obere Str. 57	Frankfurt	12209	Germany
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Juan	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Juan	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Juan	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Juan	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Update the **City** column of all records in the **Customers** table.

```
Customers  
City = 'Oslo';
```

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