

SQL UNIQUE Constraint

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

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The **UNIQUE** constraint ensures that all values in a column are different.

Both the **UNIQUE** and **PRIMARY KEY** constraints provide a guarantee for uniqueness for a column or set of columns.

A **PRIMARY KEY** constraint automatically has a **UNIQUE** constraint.

However, you can have many **UNIQUE** constraints per table, but only one **PRIMARY KEY** constraint per table.

SQL UNIQUE Constraint on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL creates a **UNIQUE** constraint on the "ID" column when the "Persons" table is created:

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL UNIQUE,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int  
);
```

MySQL:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    UNIQUE (ID)  
);
```

To name a **UNIQUE** constraint, and to define a **UNIQUE** constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    CONSTRAINT UC_Person UNIQUE (ID,LastName)  
);
```

SQL UNIQUE Constraint on ALTER TABLE

To create a **UNIQUE** constraint on the "ID" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
```

```
ADD UNIQUE (ID);
```

To name a **UNIQUE** constraint, and to define a **UNIQUE** constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ADD CONSTRAINT UC_Person UNIQUE (ID,LastName);
```

DROP a UNIQUE Constraint

To drop a **UNIQUE** constraint, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP INDEX UC_Person;
```

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CONSTRAINT UC_Person;
```