

The SQL OR Operator

The **WHERE** clause can contain **one or more** **OR** operators.

The **OR** operator is used to filter records based on more than one condition, like if you want to return all customers from Germany but also those from Spain:

Example

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Select all customers from Germany or Spain:

```
SELECT *  
FROM Customers  
WHERE Country = 'Germany' OR Country = 'Spain';
```

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Syntax

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...  
FROM table_name  
WHERE condition1 OR condition2 OR condition3 ...;
```

OR vs AND

The **OR** operator displays a record if *any* of the conditions are TRUE.

The **AND** operator displays a record if *all* the conditions are TRUE.

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

At Least One Condition Must Be True

The following SQL statement selects all fields from Customers where either **City** is "Berlin", **CustomerName** starts with the letter "G" or **Country** is "Norway":

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE City = 'Berlin' OR CustomerName LIKE 'G%' OR Country = 'Norway';
```

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Combining AND and OR

You can combine the **AND** and **OR** operators.

The following SQL statement selects all customers from Spain that starts with a "G" or an "R".

Make sure you use parenthesis to get the correct result.

Example

Select all Spanish customers that starts with either "G" or "R":

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE Country = 'Spain' AND (CustomerName LIKE 'G%' OR CustomerName LIKE 'R%');
```

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Without parenthesis, the select statement will return all customers from Spain that starts with a "G", *plus* all customers that starts with an "R", regardless of the country value:

Example

Select all customers that either:
are from Spain and starts with either "G", or
starts with the letter "R":

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE Country = 'Spain' AND CustomerName LIKE 'G%' OR CustomerName LIKE 'R%';
```

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Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Select all records where the **City** column has the value 'Berlin' or 'London'.

```
* FROM Customers
City = 'Berlin'
= '      ';
```

Submit Answer »

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