

# Why do I get this error: role "root" does not exist?

```
> docker exec -it postgres psql -U root
```

```
psql: error: connection to server on socket "/var/run/postgresql/.s.PGSQL.5432" failed: FATAL: role "root" does not exist
```

## 1. You might forget to specify the environment variable POSTGRES\_USER=root when starting the container.

If it's the case, the container will run with the default user: "postgres".

You can read more about it on the official Postgres image page: [https://hub.docker.com/\\_/postgres](https://hub.docker.com/_/postgres)

Here's the correct command:

```
> docker run --name postgres -p 5432:5432 -e POSTGRES_PASSWORD=secret -e POSTGRES_USER=root -d postgres:14-alpine
```

```
> docker exec -it postgres psql -U root
```

## 2. There might be an existing instance of Postgres running on your host machine with the same port 5432

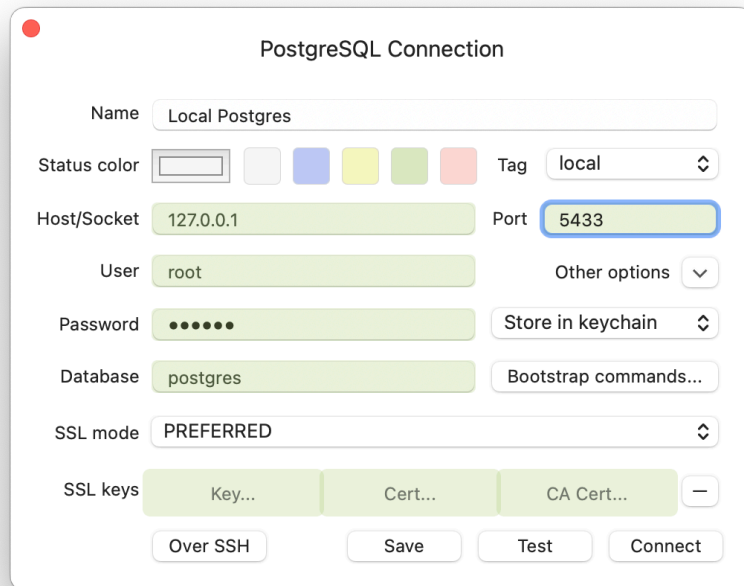
The fastest way to check this is to map a different port (such as 5433) to your Postgres container:

```
> docker run --name postgres -p 5433:5432 -e POSTGRES_PASSWORD=secret -e POSTGRES_USER=root -d postgres:14-alpine
```

```
> docker exec -it postgres psql -U root
```

Note that it's **5433:5432**, which means, **5433** is the port you use on your host machine, and it will map all the traffics to the port **5432** inside the container.

So, if you're connecting from Table Plus, then you must specify the port **5433** like this:



The screenshot shows a 'PostgreSQL Connection' dialog box. It has a title bar with a red close button. The fields are as follows: Name: 'Local Postgres'; Status color: a row of five colored squares (white, blue, yellow, green, red); Host/Socket: '127.0.0.1'; Port: '5433' (highlighted with a blue border); User: 'root'; Password: a masked field with six dots; Database: 'postgres'; SSL mode: 'PREFERRED'; SSL keys: three buttons labeled 'Key...', 'Cert...', and 'CA Cert...'. At the bottom are four buttons: 'Over SSH', 'Save', 'Test', and 'Connect'. There are also 'Other options' and 'Store in keychain' dropdown menus.

I highly recommend you to remove any existing Postgres instance running on your host machine, and only use Docker to run your local database, because it's so much easier to manage (you can start/stop/remove the DB with 1 simple command).

### 3. How to remove existing Postgres instance running on the host machine?

It depends on your OS, but you can easily Google something like this: "remove postgres windows"

I found this tutorial that show different ways to remove Postgres on each type of OS, including Windows, Linux and Mac:

<https://kb.objectrocket.com/postgresql/how-to-completely-uninstall-postgresql-757>