SQL> create table ss(id number(5) primary key,name varchar(20));

Table created.

SQL> desc ss;

Name Null? Type

----------------------------------------- -------- ----------------------------

ID NOT NULL NUMBER(5)

NAME VARCHAR2(20)

SQL> alter table ss add(age number(3));

Table altered.

SQL> desc ss;

Name Null? Type

----------------------------------------- -------- ----------------------------

ID NOT NULL NUMBER(5)

NAME VARCHAR2(20)

AGE NUMBER(3)

SQL> alter table ss modify(name varchar(40));

Table altered.

SQL> insert into ss values(25,'giri',20);

1 row created.

SQL> insert into ss values(44,'giridharans',19);

1 row created.

SQL> alter table ss modify(name varchar(10));

alter table ss modify(name varchar(10))

\*

ERROR at line 1:

ORA-01441: cannot decrease column length because some value is too big

SQL> desc ss;

Name Null? Type

----------------------------------------- -------- ----------------------------

ID NOT NULL NUMBER(5)

NAME VARCHAR2(40)

AGE NUMBER(3)

SQL> alter table ss modify(name varchar(15));

Table altered.

SQL> desc ss;

Name Null? Type

----------------------------------------- -------- ----------------------------

ID NOT NULL NUMBER(5)

NAME VARCHAR2(15)

AGE NUMBER(3)

SQL> alter table ss drop column age;

Table altered.

SQL> select \* from ss;

ID NAME

---------- ---------------

25 giri

44 giridharans

SQL>