DROP TABLE

In MySQL, DROP TABLE command removes one or more tables from an existing database.

The user who is using the DROP command, must have DROP privilege for each table(s) he wants to drop. The command removes all the data and table definition from the database.

**Syntax:**

DROP [TEMPORARY] TABLE [IF EXISTS]

table\_name [, table\_name] ...

[RESTRICT | CASCADE]

**Argument**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| table name | Table to be removed. |
| IF EXIST | The IF EXIST optional clause can be used to avoid the error message occurred, when a specified table in the table list passed as argument, does not exist in the database. |
| RESTRICT and CASCADE | The RESTRICT and CASCADE options can be used to make porting easier. |
| TEMPORARY | This clause with statement drops only TEMPORARY tables. A TEMPORARY table is visible only to the session that created by the user. Using TEMPORARY is a good practice to ensure that accidentally you do not drop such a table which is important to you. |

**Example:**

If you want to drop the table newauthor, the following sql can be used.

DROP TABLE IF EXISTS newauthor;

The above MySQL statement above will remove the 'newauthor' table with all data from the existing database.

**MySQL DROP multiple TABLES**

Here the tables of the database *tempdatabase*.

mysql> SHOW tables;

+------------------------+

| Tables\_in\_tempdatabase |

+------------------------+

| table1 |

| table2 |

| table3 |

| table4 |

| table5 |

+------------------------+

5 rows in set (0.10 sec)

If you want to delete the table *table2,table4* and *table5* from the database *tempdatabase*, the following sql can be used.

mysql> DROP TABLE table2,table4,table5;

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.24 sec)

mysql> SHOW TABLES;

+------------------------+

| Tables\_in\_tempdatabase |

+------------------------+

| table1 |

| table3 |

+------------------------+

2 rows in set (0.00 sec)

**MySQL DROP column**

If MySQL ALTER command is used with DROP following the table column name, that column will be deleted from the table.

**Example:**

If we want to remove *cate\_descrip* column from *newcate* table, the following statement can be used.

ALTER TABLE newcate DROP cate\_descrip;

**MySQL DROP multiple columns**

Here is the table table1.

mysql> DESCRIBE table1;

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| Field | Type | Null | Key | Default | Extra |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| col2 | varchar(15) | YES | | NULL | |

| col4 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col1 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col3 | int(10) | YES | | NULL | |

| col5 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col6 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col7 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col8 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col9 | int(10) | YES | | NULL | |

| col10 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col11 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col12 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

12 rows in set (0.01 sec)

If you want to remove the column *col1, col11* and *col12* from the table *table1*, the following sql statement can be used.

mysql> ALTER TABLE table1 drop col1, drop col11, drop col12;

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.20 sec)

Records: 0 Duplicates: 0 Warnings: 0

Here is the structure of the table after removing columns.

mysql> describe table1;

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| Field | Type | Null | Key | Default | Extra |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| col2 | varchar(15) | YES | | NULL | |

| col4 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col3 | int(10) | YES | | NULL | |

| col5 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col6 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col7 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col8 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col9 | int(10) | YES | | NULL | |

| col10 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

9 rows in set (0.01 sec)

**MySQL DROP PRIMARY KEY**

Here is the structure of the sample table.

mysql> DESCRIBE table1;

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| Field | Type | Null | Key | Default | Extra |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| col2 | varchar(15) | NO | **PRI** | | |

| col4 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col3 | int(10) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col5 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col6 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col7 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col8 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col9 | int(10) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col10 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

9 rows in set (0.01 sec)

Here in the above table structure of table1 shows *col2* is the PRIMARY KEY, which is indicated by red color.

If you want to drop the PRIMARY KEY on *col2*, the following sql can be used.

mysql> DROP INDEX `PRIMARY` ON table1;

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.81 sec)

Records: 0 Duplicates: 0 Warnings: 0

Now look the structure of the table *table1* again.

mysql> describe table1;

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| Field | Type | Null | Key | Default | Extra |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

| col2 | varchar(15) | NO | MUL | | |

| col4 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col3 | int(10) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col5 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col6 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col7 | int(5) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col8 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

| col9 | int(10) | YES | MUL | NULL | |

| col10 | int(5) | YES | | NULL | |

+-------+-------------+------+-----+---------+-------+

9 rows in set (0.01 sec)