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PHP MySQL ORDER BY Clause



In this tutorial you will learn how to sort and display the data from a MySQL table in ascending or descending order using PHP.

Ordering the Result Set

The **ORDER BY** clause can be used in conjugation with the **SELECT** statement to see the data from a table ordered by a specific field. The **ORDER BY** clause lets you define the field name to sort against and the sort direction either ascending or descending.

The basic syntax of this clause can be given with:

```
SELECT column_name(s) FROM table_name ORDER BY column_name(s) ASC|DESC
```

Let's make a SQL query using the **ORDER BY** clause in **SELECT** statement, after that we will execute this query through passing it to the PHP `mysqli_query()` function to get the ordered data. Consider the following *persons* table inside the *demo* database:

id	first_name	last_name	email
1	Peter	Parker	peterparker@mail.com
2	John	Rambo	johnrambo@mail.com
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
4	John	Carter	johncarter@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com

The PHP code in the following example selects all rows from the *persons* table and sorts the result by the *first_name* column in the alphabetically ascending order.

Example

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```
1 <?php
2 /* Attempt MySQL server connection. Assuming you are running MySQL
3 server with default setting (user 'root' with no password) */
4 $link = mysqli_connect("localhost", "root", "", "demo");
5
6 // Check connection
7 if($link === false){
8     die("ERROR: Could not connect. " . mysqli_connect_error());
9 }
10
11 // Attempt select query execution with order by clause
12 $sql = "SELECT * FROM persons ORDER BY first_name";
13 if($result = mysqli_query($link, $sql)){
14     if(mysqli_num_rows($result) > 0){
15         echo "<table>";
16         echo "<tr>";
17             echo "<th>id</th>";
18             echo "<th>first_name</th>";
19             echo "<th>last_name</th>";
20             echo "<th>email</th>";
```


PHP EXAMPLES

PHP REFERENCE

```
21         echo "</tr>";
22     while($row = mysqli_fetch_array($result)){
23         echo "<tr>";
24         echo "<td>" . $row['id'] . "</td>";
25         echo "<td>" . $row['first_name'] . "</td>";
26         echo "<td>" . $row['last_name'] . "</td>";
27         echo "<td>" . $row['email'] . "</td>";
28         echo "</tr>";
29     }
30     echo "</table>";
31     // Close result set
32     mysqli_free_result($result);
33 } else{
34     echo "No records matching your query were found.";
35 }
36 } else{
37     echo "ERROR: Could not able to execute $sql. " . mysqli_error($link);
38 }
39
40 // Close connection
41 mysqli_close($link);
42 ?>
```

After ordering the result, the result set will look something like this:

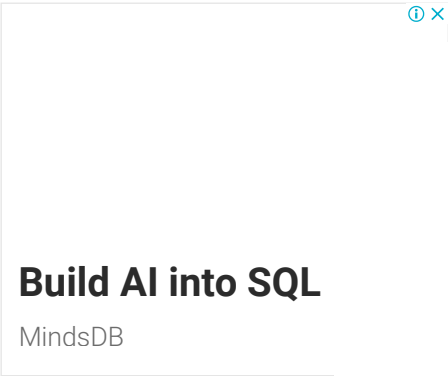
id	first_name	last_name	email
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com
2	John	Rambo	johnrambo@mail.com
4	John	Carter	johncarter@mail.com
1	Peter	Parker	peterparker@mail.com

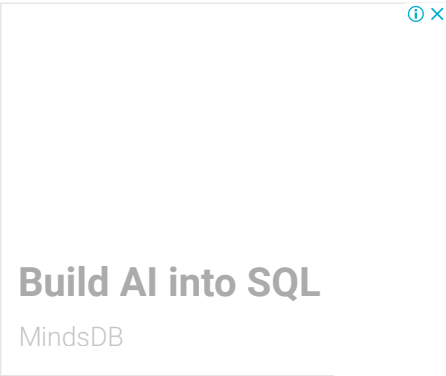
 **Tip:** By default the ORDER BY clause sort the results in ascending order. If you want to sort the records in a descending order, you can use the DESC keyword.

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