TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

# Oracle PL/SQL – Constants and Literals

## PL/SQL Constants

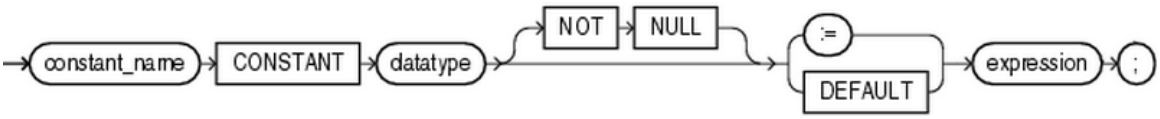
- A constant holds a value that once declared, does not change in the program.
- A constant declaration specifies its name, data type and value and allocates storage for it.
- The declaration can also impose the NOT NULL constraint.

## Constant Declaration

- A constant is declared using the CONSTANT keyword.
- An initial value should be assigned while declaring a CONSTANT and does not allow that value to be changed.

**Syntax**:

constant_name CONSTANT datatype [NOT NULL] := | DEFAULT initial_value ;




**Example :**

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON;
DECLARE
   -- constant declaration
   pi constant number := 3.141592654;
BEGIN
   dbms_output.put_line('Result: ' || pi);
END;
/
```

**Output :**

```
Result: 3.141592654

Pl/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

## PL/SQL Literals

- A literal is an explicit numeric, character, string, or Boolean value not represented by an identifier.
- For example, TRUE, 786, NULL, 'language' are all literals of type Boolean, number, or string.
- In PL/SQL, literals are case-sensitive.
- PL/SQL supports the following kinds of literals:

  - Numeric Literals
  - Character Literals
  - String Literals
  - BOOLEAN Literals
  - Date and Time Literals

The following table provides examples from all these categories of literal values.

| | |
|---|---|
| Numeric | 34 ,-52,0,3.67, 3E5 |
| Character | 'a','z','$',)' |
| String | 'Happy','Language' |
| Boolean | TRUE,FALSE,NULL |
| Date and Time | DATE '1978-12-25';<br>TIMESTAMP '2012-10-29 12:01:01'; |

To embed single quotes within a string literal, place two single quotes next to each other as shown below:

```
DECLARE
   message  varchar2(30):= 'That''s interesting!';
BEGIN
   dbms_output.put_line(message);
END;
/
```

**Output:**

```
That's interesting!

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```