

## **Oracle PL/SQL – Constants and Literals**

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## PL/SQL Constants

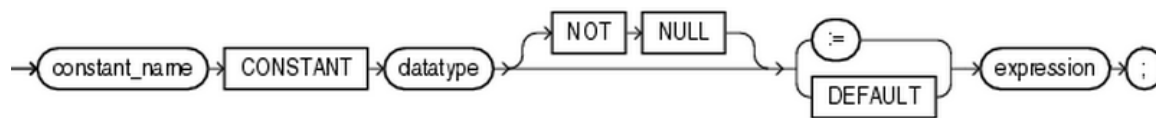
- 🕒 A constant holds a value that once declared, does not change in the program.
- 🕒 A constant declaration specifies its name, data type and value and allocates storage for it.
- 🕒 The declaration can also impose the NOT NULL constraint.

## 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'; 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.
```