

Slide 1: Sorting with ORDER BY

# Sorting with **ORDER BY**

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Slide 2: Learning Objectives

## Learning Objectives

Discuss the importance of sorting data for analysis purposes

Explain some of the rules related to using the ORDER BY clause

Use the ORDER BY clause to sort data either in ascending or descending order

Slide 3: Why Sort Data?

## Why Sort Data?

Data displayed appears in the order of the underlying tables

Updated and deleted data can change this order

Sequence of retrieved data cannot be assumed if order was not specified

Slide 4: Why Sort Data?

## Why Sort Data?

Sorting data logically helps keep information you want on top

ORDER BY clause allows user to sort data by particular columns

```
SELECT something  
FROM database  
ORDER BY characteristic
```

Slide 5: Rules for ORDER BY

## Rules for ORDER BY

Takes the name of one or more columns

Add a comma after each additional column name

Can sort by a column not retrieved

Must always be the last clause in a select statement

Slide 6: Sorting by Column Position

## Sorting by Column Position

```
ORDER BY 2,3
```

2 means 2<sup>nd</sup> column

3 means 3<sup>rd</sup> column, etc.

Slide 7: Sort Direction

## Sort Direction

**DESC** descending order

**ASC** ascending order

Only applies to the column names it  
directly precedes