SQL | DESCRIBE Statement

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Prerequisite: [SQL Create Clause](#)

As the name suggests, DESCRIBE is used to describe something. Since in a database, we have tables, that's why do we use **DESCRIBE** or **DESC**(both are the same) commands to describe the **structure** of a table.

Syntax:

DESCRIBE one;

    OR

DESC one;

Note: We can use either **DESCRIBE** or **DESC**(both are **Case Insensitive**). Suppose our table whose name is **one** has 4 columns named id, name, email, and age and all are of can **contain** null values.

Query:

```
CREATE TABLE users (
    id INT PRIMARY KEY,
    name VARCHAR(50),
    email VARCHAR(100),
    age INT
);
```

```
DESC users;
```

Output:

```
+-------+--------------+------+-----+---------+-------+
| Field | Type         | Null | Key | Default | Extra |
+-------+--------------+------+-----+---------+-------+
| id    | int(11)      | NO   | PRI | NULL    |       |
| name  | varchar(50)  | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
| email | varchar(100) | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
| age   | int(11)      | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
+-------+--------------+------+-----+---------+-------+
```

Here, above on using **DESC** or either **DESCRIBE** we are able to see the **structure** of a table but **not** on the console tab, the structure of the table is shown in the **describe tab** of the Database System Software.

So **desc** or **describe** command shows the **structure** of the table which include the **name** of the column, the **data type** of the column and the **nullability** which means, that column can contain null values or not.

All of these features of the table are described at the time of **Creation** of the table.

Creating a Table or Defining the Structure of a Table

Query:

```
create table one
(
id int not null,
name char(25)
)
```

Here, we created a table whose name is **one** and its columns are **ID**, **NAME** and the **id** is of **not null** type i.e., we **can't** put null values in the **ID** column but we **can** put null values in the **NAME** column.

Demonstrate DESC

Step 1: Defining the structure of the table.

Creating a table:

```
create table one
(
 id int not null,
 name char(25),
```
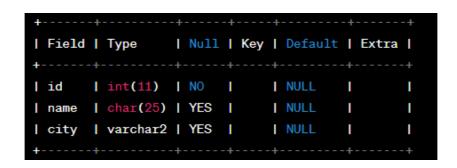
```
  city varchar2(25)
 )
```

Step 2: Displaying the structure of the table:

Table:

```
 DESC one
   OR
 DESCRIBE one
```

Output:

Note: Here above **ID** column is of **not null** type and rest 2 columns can contain null values.
Note: You have to execute the DESC command on your system software only, because this command won't run on any editor. Make sure to run this command on your own installed Database o**nly References**: Oracle.com

This article is contributed by **Rajat Rawat 4**. If you like GeeksforGeeks and would like to contribute, you can also write an article using write.geeksforgeeks.org or mail your article to review-team@geeksforgeeks.org. See your article appearing on the GeeksforGeeks main page and help other Geeks. Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or if you want to share more information about the topic discussed above.

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