



# SQL LIKE

[Read](#)[Discuss](#)[Courses](#)[Practice](#)

Sometimes we may require tuples from the database which match certain patterns. For example, we want to retrieve all columns where the tuples start with the letter 'y', or start with 'b' and end with 'l', or even more complicated and restrictive string patterns. This is where the **SQL LIKE Clause** comes to the rescue, often coupled with the WHERE Clause in [SQL](#).

In SQL, the LIKE operator is mainly used in the WHERE clause to search for a enumerate pattern in a column.

Two barriers are often used in conjunction with the LIKE :

1. %: Used to match zero or more characters. (Variable Length)
2. \_: Used to match exactly one character. (Fixed Length)

## SQL Like Syntax:

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...  
FROM table_name  
WHERE columnN LIKE pattern;
```

The following are the rules for pattern matching with the LIKE Clause :

AD

Pattern	Meaning
'a%'	Match strings that start with 'a'
'%a'	Match strings with end with 'a'

Pattern	Meaning
'a%t'	Match strings that contain the start with 'a' and end with 't'.
'%wow%'	Match strings that contain the substring 'wow' in them at any position.
'_wow%'	Match strings that contain the substring 'wow' in them at the second position.
'_a%'	Match strings that contain 'a' at the second position.
'a_ _%'	Match strings that start with 'a' and contain at least 2 more characters.

**Example:** Say we have a relation, Supplier. We want to test various patterns using the LIKE clause:

### Supplier Table

SupplierID	Name	Address
S1	Paragon Suppliers	21-3, Okhla, Delhi
S2	Mango Nation	21, Faridabad, Haryana
S3	Canadian Biz	6/7, Okhla Phase II, Delhi
S4	Caravan Traders	2-A, Pitampura, Delhi
S5	Harish and Sons	Gurgaon, NCR
S6	Om Suppliers	2/1, Faridabad, Haryana

## SQL LIKE – Sample Queries and Outputs

### Query 1:

```
SELECT SupplierID, Name, Address
FROM Suppliers
WHERE Name LIKE 'Ca%';
```

### Output:

S3	Canadian Biz	6/7, Okhla Phase II, Delhi
S4	Caravan Traders	2-A, Pitampura, Delhi

### Query 2:

```
SELECT *  
FROM Suppliers  
WHERE Address LIKE '%Okhla%';
```

### Output:

S1	Paragon Suppliers	21-3, Okhla, Delhi
S3	Canadian Biz	6/7, Okhla Phase II, Delhi

### Query 3:

```
SELECT SupplierID, Name, Address  
FROM Suppliers  
WHERE Name LIKE '_ango%';
```

### Output:

S2	Mango Nation	21, Faridabad, Haryana
----	--------------	------------------------

## SQL LIKE Application

The LIKE operator is extremely resourceful in situations such as address filtering wherein we know only a segment or a portion of the entire address (such as locality or city) and would like to retrieve results based on that. The wildcards can be resourcefully exploited to yield even better and more filtered tuples based on the requirement.

### Important to know about SQL LIKE

One important thing to note about the LIKE operator is that it is **case-insensitive** by default in most database systems. This means that if you search for “apple” using the LIKE operator, it will return results that include “Apple”, “APPLE”, “aPpLe”, and so on.

For making the LIKE operator case-sensitive, you can use the “**BINARY**” keyword in MySQL or the “**COLLATE**” keyword in other database systems.

For example:

---

## XML

```
SELECT * FROM products WHERE name LIKE BINARY 'apple%'
```

This following query will only return products whose name starts with “apple” and is spelled exactly like that, without capital letters.

This article is contributed by **Anannya Uberoi**. If you like GeeksforGeeks and would like to contribute, you can also write an article using [write.geeksforgeeks.org](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/write/geeksforgeeks.org) or mail your article to [review-team@geeksforgeeks.org](mailto: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.

Last Updated : 04 May, 2023

29

## Similar Reads

1. Difference between Structured Query Language (SQL) and Transact-SQL (T-SQL)
2. Configure SQL Jobs in SQL Server using T-SQL
3. How to Escape Square Brackets in a LIKE Clause in SQL Server?
4. SQL | Procedures in PL/SQL
5. SQL | Difference between functions and stored procedures in PL/SQL
6. SQL SERVER – Input and Output Parameter For Dynamic SQL
7. Difference between SQL and T-SQL
8. SQL Server | Convert tables in T-SQL into XML
9. SQL SERVER | Bulk insert data from csv file using T-SQL command
10. SQL - SELECT from Multiple Tables with MS SQL Server

Previous

Next