



# Top Clause in Microsoft SQL Server

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THE SELECT TOP clause is used to fetch a limited number of rows from a database. This clause is very useful while dealing with large databases. The top Clause will be useful for fetching the data records in larger datasets as it will drastically reduce the complexity.

## Syntax

```
SELECT TOP value column1,column2 FROM table_name;
```

*value: number of rows to return from top*

AD

*column1 , column2 fields in the table*

*table\_name: name of table*

## Syntax Using Percent

```
SELECT TOP value PERCENT column1,column2 FROM table_name;
```

*value: percentage of number of rows to return from top*

*column1 , column2: fields in the table*

*table\_name: name of table*

## Parameter Explanation

1. **TOP:** Clause is used for fetching the top records from a huge dataset.

Lets us see examples for Top Clause in Microsoft SQL Server, for this we create a database.

**Query:**

```
CREATE TABLE Customer(
    CustomerID INT PRIMARY KEY,
    CustomerName VARCHAR(50),
    LastName VARCHAR(50),
    Country VARCHAR(50),
    Age int(2),
    Phone int(10)
);

-- Insert some sample data into the Customers table
INSERT INTO Customer (CustomerID, CustomerName, LastName, Country, Age, Phone)
VALUES (1, 'Shubham', 'Thakur', 'India', '23', 'xxxxxxxxxx'),
(2, 'Aman ', 'Chopra', 'Australia', '21', 'xxxxxxxxxx'),
(3, 'Naveen', 'Tulasi', 'Sri lanka', '24', 'xxxxxxxxxx'),
(4, 'Aditya', 'Arpan', 'Austria', '21', 'xxxxxxxxxx'),
(5, 'Nishant. Salchichas S.A.', 'Jain', 'Spain', '22', 'xxxxxxxxxx');
```

**Output:**

CustomerID	CustomerName	LastName	Country
Age	Phone		
1	Shubham Thakur	India	23
2	Aman Chopra	Australia	21
3	Naveen Tulasi	Sri lanka	24
4	Aditya Arpan	Austria	21
5	Nishant. Salchichas S.A.	Jain	Spain
22	98763		

**Query:**

To fetch the first two data sets from the Customer table.

```
SELECT TOP 2 * FROM Customer;
```

**Output**

CustomerID	CustomerName	LastName	Country
Age	Phone		
1	Shubham Thakur	India	23
2	Aman Chopra	Australia	21

## Add WHERE Clause in SQL Server

We can fetch data records by using a where clause with some condition was well.

### Query:

```
SELECT TOP 1 * FROM Customers
WHERE Country='Spain';
```

### Output:

CustomerID	CustomerName	LastName	Country
Age	Phone		
5	Nishant. Salchichas S.A.	Jain	Spain
22	98763		

### Note:

To get the same functionality on MySQL and Oracle databases there is a bit of difference in the basic syntax;

- **For MySQL databases:**

```
SELECT column1,column2 FROM table_name LIMIT value;
column1 , column2: fields int the table
table_name: name of table
value: number of rows to return from top
```

- **For Oracle databases:**

```
SELECT column1,column2 FROM table_name WHERE ROWNUM <= value;
column1 , column2: fields int the table
table_name: name of table
value: number of rows to return from top
```

This article is contributed by **Pratik Agarwal**. 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