LIKE Operator

What is LIKE Operator in Oracle?

The LIKE Operator in Oracle is used with the WHERE clause to search for a specific pattern in a given string. The string pattern contains wildcard characters that represent missing characters. The LIKE operator is written as a word "LIKE" followed by a pattern to match with column
values.

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE name LIKE '%P';
```

Before using the LIKE Operator in Oracle, first, we need to understand what are wildcard characters.

A wildcard character in Oracle is used as a substitute for any other characters in a string. The wildcards are used to search for data in a given column. The wildcard characters in Oracle
are basically used with the LIKE operator. In Oracle, there are two
wildcards are as follows.

1. **%** Symbol represents any no of characters (zero or more characters) in the expression.

2. _ will represent a single character in the expression.

Like Operator Using % in Oracle

The percent (%) means it will search for zero or more characters after the "%". Here '%' is the wildcard character that we will use before or after characters to search for the required matched string of characters.

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE City LIKE '%ai';
```

Fetch all employee whose name contains the word am

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name LIKE '%am%';
```

Fetch all the employees whose name does not start with P.

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name NOT LIKE 'P%';
```

Fetch all the employees whose city does not end with ai.

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE CITY NOT LIKE '%ai%';
```

Fetch all employee whose name does not contain the word am

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name NOT LIKE '%am%';
```

Like Operator Using _ (underscore) in Oracle

The underscore (_) means it will exactly search for one character after the "_".

Let us understand the use of _ wildcard character with an example.

Let's filter the data more precisely and this time get the employee's city starting with 'Londo' but only containing a total of 6 characters.

get the employee's city starting with 'Londo' but only containing a total of 6 characters

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE City LIKE 'Londo_';
```

Fetch all the employees whose department is having two letters

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Department LIKE '_ _';
```

Display all the employees whose names are having the second letter as 'i' in the Employee table

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name LIKE '_i%';
```

Like operator with special char's:

Example: Whose employee name is having "#" char?

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name LIKE '%#%';
```

Example: Whose employee name is having "@" char?

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name LIKE '%@%';
```

Example: Whose employee name is having "_" char?

```
SELECT * FROM Employee WHERE Name LIKE '%\_%'ESCAPE '\';
```

Example: Whose employee name is having "%" char?

```
SELECT * FROM EMP77 WHERE ENAME LIKE '%\%%'ESCAPE '\';
```