

# Preface

*Oracle Database PL/SQL Language Reference* describes and explains how to use PL/SQL, the Oracle procedural extension of SQL.

## Topics

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## Audience

*Oracle Database PL/SQL Language Reference* is intended for anyone who is developing PL/SQL-based applications for either an Oracle Database or an Oracle TimesTen In-Memory Database, including:

- Programmers
- Systems analysts
- Project managers
- Database administrators

To use this document effectively, you need a working knowledge of:

- Oracle Database
- Structured Query Language (SQL)
- Basic programming concepts such as `IF-THEN` statements, loops, procedures, and functions

## Documentation Accessibility

For information about Oracle's commitment to accessibility, visit the Oracle Accessibility Program website at <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=docacc>.

### Access to Oracle Support

Oracle customers that have purchased support have access to electronic support through My Oracle Support. For information, visit <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=info> or visit <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=trs> if you are hearing impaired.

## Related Documents

For more information, see these documents in the Oracle Database documentation set:

- *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference*
- *Oracle Database PL/SQL Packages and Types Reference*
- *Oracle Database JSON Developer's Guide*
- *Oracle Database SODA for PL/SQL Developer's Guide*
- *Oracle Database Development Guide*
- *Oracle Database Administrator's Guide*
- *Oracle Database SecureFiles and Large Objects Developer's Guide*
- *Oracle Database Object-Relational Developer's Guide*
- *Oracle Database Concepts*
- *Oracle Database Performance Tuning Guide*
- *Oracle Database Sample Schemas*



**See Also:**

<https://www.oracle.com/database/technologies/appdev/plsql.html>

## Conventions

This document uses these text conventions:

| Convention      | Meaning  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>boldface</b> | Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.         |
| <i>italic</i>   | Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.                          |
| monospace       | Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter. |
| {A B C}         | Choose either A, B, or C.  |

Also:

- `*_view` means all static data dictionary views whose names end with `view`. For example, `*_ERRORS` means `ALL_ERRORS`, `DBA_ERRORS`, and `USER_ERRORS`. For more information about any static data dictionary view, or about static dictionary views in general, see *Oracle Database Reference*.
- Table names not qualified with schema names are in the sample schema `HR`. For information about the sample schemas, see *Oracle Database Sample Schemas*.

## Syntax Descriptions

Syntax descriptions are provided in this book for various SQL, PL/SQL, or other command-line constructs in graphic form or Backus Naur Form (BNF). See *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference* for information about how to interpret these descriptions.