**Step 1**

In the tutorial you should install mariadb-server in place of mysql-server. I've got the same problem on DEBIAN 9 install and these command worked for me :

sudo apt purge mysql\*

sudo apt purge mariadb\*

sudo apt autoremove

sudo apt autoclean

Check if still something in the system :

dpkg -l | grep -e mysql -e mariadb

if the list is empty then install mariadb server :

sudo apt install mariadb-server

**Step 2**

To completely remove a package, we can use the apt purge command with arguments such as --autoremove to clear off the dependencies along with their parent packages. In your specific case, I don't think apt purge will work as dpkg is throwing errors with the pre-installation script. It seems like you have manually removed some files or directories.

* Use the dpkg command with the -P argument to forcefully purge the package.

For forcefully purging the package.

1. Since removing packages can be destructive, print the list of the package that will be removed:
2. ---- dpkg -l | awk '{print $2}' | grep -i mysql | grep -v lib

Check if any important package is being removed. If everything seems fine, proceed to step 2.

1. Purge the packages:
2. --- sudo dpkg -P --force-all $(dpkg -l | awk '{print $2}' | grep -i mysql | grep -v lib)

This should completely remove MySQL. Then run a force install:

sudo apt -f install