In-depth guide: SQL best practices

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These best practices include guidelines for entering SQL queries, developing documentation, and examples demonstrate these practices. This is a great resource to have handy when you are using SQL yourself; you ca go straight to the relevant section to review these practices. Think of it like a SQL field guide!

Capitalization and case sensitivity

With SQL, capitalization usually doesn't matter. You could enter `SELECT` or select or `SeLeCT`. They all work! you use capitalization as part of a consistent style your queries will look more professional.

To enter SQL queries like a pro, it is always a good idea to use all caps for clause starters (e.g. `SELECT`, `FROM`, `WHERE`, etc.). Functions should also be in all caps (e.g. `SUM()`). Column names should be all lowercase (refer section on snake_case later in this guide). Table names should be in CamelCase (refer to the section on Came later in this guide). This helps keep your queries consistent and easier to read while not impacting the data th be pulled when you run them. The only time that capitalization does matter is when it is inside quotes (more quotes below).

Vendors of SQL databases may use slightly different variations of SQL. These variations are called **SQL diale** Some SQL dialects are case sensitive. BigQuery is one of them. Vertica is another. But most, like MySQL, Post and SQL Server, aren't case sensitive. This means if you searched for `country_code =  'us'`, it will return entries that have `'us'`, `'uS'`, `'Us'`, and `'US'`. This isn't the case with BigQuery. BigQuery is case sensitive, same search would only return entries where the `country_code` is exactly `'us'`. If the `country_code` is ' BigQuery wouldn't return those entries as part of your result.

Single or double quotes: '' or " "

For the most part, it also doesn't matter if you use single quotes `'  '` or double quotes `"  "` when referring to For example, `SELECT` is a clause starter. If you put `SELECT` in quotes like `'SELECT'` or `"SELECT"`, then SQL