

How Assignments Work

In this course, nearly all assignments are done by you developing and executing SQL commands against a database that is provided for you to use. The very first assignment will create a database and give you the credentials and connection information that you can use from any computer that can run a PostgreSQL client. Here is an example of database connection information and credentials:

Host: `pg.pg4e.com`
Port: `5432`
Database: `pg4e_8675309`
User: `pg4e_8675309`
Password: `pg4e_p_422398745954`

You can run your SQL commands from any Internet-connected computer that has a PostgreSQL client. Most of the examples for the course will be run in a Bash shell - either in Linux or a Jupyter Notebook. The commands are the same anywhere in a bash shell.

We recommend you create a free account on PythonAnywhere (www.pythonanywhere.com) and use their shell. It works, already has psql installed and is free and available around the world. You also have other choices that require more setup:

- Installing a PostgreSQL like psql or DBeaver on your laptop. We do not provide instructions for installing the needed software on your laptop but it is not difficult to find.
- If you have Jupyter Notebook available you can get a shell using the Terminal feature of Jupyter. Note that many free Jupyter Notebook services block outbound access. Not all notebook terminals have **psql** installed.

We use **psql** in all the course examples and recommend it. Some assignments are easiest if you use **psql**.

Once you complete each assignment, you will launch the autograder to submit it. When you ask the autograder to check your assignment, it makes a connection to your database and runs SQL commands to see if you completed the assignment successfully. If your assignment is correct, the autograder sends a grade to the gradebook.

A diagram of this process is below.

