# Getting Started with Snowflake

Snowflake is a cloud-based data platform that can be accessed through a web browser, command-line interface, or BI/ETL tools. It does not require installation on your desktop, and it runs entirely on the cloud (AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud).

## 1. Where Snowflake Runs

Snowflake operates fully in the cloud, meaning you don’t have to worry about physical servers or infrastructure. It is accessible via:  
- Snowflake Web UI (Snowsight)  
- SnowSQL CLI  
- BI/ETL tools (via ODBC/JDBC drivers)

## 2. How to Access Snowflake

Option 1: Snowflake Web UI (Snowsight)  
URL format: https://<your\_account\_region>.snowflakecomputing.com  
Example: https://xy12345.ap-southeast-1.snowflakecomputing.com  
Works in Chrome, Edge, Firefox.  
  
Option 2: SnowSQL CLI  
Command-line client for running SQL queries and scripts.  
  
Option 3: Connect from BI / ETL Tools  
Examples: Power BI, Tableau, Talend, Informatica, ADF, Databricks.

## 3. Steps to Start Working with Snowflake

A. Sign Up for an Account:  
- Visit https://signup.snowflake.com  
- Choose a cloud provider (AWS, Azure, GCP) and region.  
- Get your login URL, username, and temporary password.  
  
B. Login to the Web Interface (Snowsight):  
1. Open the login URL in your browser.  
2. Enter credentials.  
3. Access the Snowflake dashboard.  
  
C. Create Warehouse, Database, and Table:  
Example SQL:  
CREATE WAREHOUSE my\_wh WITH WAREHOUSE\_SIZE='SMALL' AUTO\_SUSPEND=300 AUTO\_RESUME=TRUE;  
CREATE DATABASE my\_db;  
CREATE SCHEMA my\_schema;  
CREATE TABLE my\_schema.customers (  
 id INT,  
 name STRING,  
 email STRING  
);  
INSERT INTO my\_schema.customers VALUES (1, 'Alice', 'alice@example.com'), (2, 'Bob', 'bob@example.com');  
SELECT \* FROM my\_schema.customers;

## 4. Where You Work

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Method | Where It Runs | What You Need |
| Web UI (Snowsight) | Browser (any OS) | Login URL + Credentials |
| SnowSQL CLI | Your desktop terminal | Install SnowSQL + Credentials |
| BI / ETL Tool | Local or cloud tool | ODBC/JDBC driver + Credentials |

## 5. Recommendation to Start

1. Sign up for a free trial (Snowflake gives $400 credits for 30 days).  
2. Use the Web UI for simplicity.  
3. Practice SQL in the Worksheet tab.  
4. Later explore CLI and BI tool integration.

# Snowflake Beginner Practice Plan (Day 1 to Day 5)

## Day 1 - Getting Started & Setup

• Sign up for a Snowflake trial account.  
• Log in to the Snowflake Web UI (Snowsight).  
• Explore the interface: Worksheets, Databases, Warehouses.  
• Learn Snowflake terminology (warehouse, database, schema, stage).

## Day 2 - Creating Warehouses & Databases

• Create a new virtual warehouse.  
• Create a database and schema.  
• Understand warehouse size, scaling, auto-suspend.  
• Run basic SQL commands: CREATE, DROP, SHOW.

## Day 3 - Creating and Loading Tables

• Create a table for storing sample data.  
• Load CSV data using the Web UI.  
• Learn about Snowflake stages.  
• Perform SELECT queries to view loaded data.

## Day 4 - Querying and Filtering Data

• Write SELECT statements with WHERE, ORDER BY, and LIMIT.  
• Use aggregate functions (COUNT, SUM, AVG).  
• Create and query views.  
• Understand query history and monitoring.

## Day 5 - Integration & Export

• Connect Snowflake to Power BI or Tableau (using Web UI credentials).  
• Export query results to CSV.  
• Practice real-world queries on sample datasets.  
• Explore Snowflake Marketplace for free datasets.