SQL CASE Expression

The SQL CASE Expression

The CASE expression goes through conditions and returns a value when the first condition is met (like an if-then-else statement). So, once a condition is true, it will stop reading and return the result. If no conditions are true, it returns the value in the ELSE clause.

If there is no ELSE part and no conditions are true, it returns NULL.

CASE Syntax

CASE  
    WHEN *condition1* THEN *result1*  
    WHEN *condition2* THEN *result2*  
    WHEN *conditionN* THEN *resultN*  
    ELSE *result*  
END;

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "OrderDetails" table in the Northwind sample database:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OrderDetailID** | **OrderID** | **ProductID** | **Quantity** |
| 1 | 10248 | 11 | 12 |
| 2 | 10248 | 42 | 10 |
| 3 | 10248 | 72 | 5 |
| 4 | 10249 | 14 | 9 |
| 5 | 10249 | 51 | 40 |

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SQL CASE Examples

The following SQL goes through conditions and returns a value when the first condition is met:

Example[Get your own SQL Server](https://www.w3schools.com/spaces/)

SELECT OrderID, Quantity,  
CASE  
    WHEN Quantity > 30 THEN 'The quantity is greater than 30'  
    WHEN Quantity = 30 THEN 'The quantity is 30'  
    ELSE 'The quantity is under 30'  
END AS QuantityText  
FROM OrderDetails;

The following SQL will order the customers by City. However, if City is NULL, then order by Country:

Example

SELECT CustomerName, City, Country  
FROM Customers  
ORDER BY  
(CASE  
    WHEN City IS NULL THEN Country  
    ELSE City  
END);

|  |
| --- |
| Select EmployeeName,  CASE  WHEN Salary >=80000 AND Salary <=100000 THEN 'Director'  WHEN Salary >=50000 AND Salary <80000 THEN 'Senior Consultant'  Else 'Director'  END AS Designation  from Employee |

In the following image you can see, we get designation as per condition specified in CASE statement.

