Title

P04. Handle long string literals that may contain single quotes.

Description

Often, you assign a long string literal to a variable in PL/SQL. The string literal may contain single quotes that are used as the delimiter for the string, which can cause a syntax error.

For example, you want to assign the following SELECT statement containing string literals to a variable:

```sql
1  SELECT * FROM employees
2          WHERE employee_id = 100
3          AND last_name = 'King'
```

To avoid the syntax error, use the quote operator q to enclose the string literal. The quote operator customizes the delimiter for the string literal.

Example

```sql
1  -- Use quote operator with very long string literals and containing
       single quotes
2  declare
3      v_long_string varchar2(4000);
4  begin
5      v_long_string := q'{
6          SELECT * FROM employees
7          WHERE employee_id = 100
8          AND last_name = 'King'
9      }';
10     dbms_output.put_line(v_long_string);
11 end;
12 /
```