

[Order By](#) – guides you on how to sort the result set returned from a query

PostgreSQL `SELECT with order by` statement syntax

The `ORDER BY` clause allows you to sort the rows returned from the `SELECT` statement in ascending or descending order based on the specified criteria.

The following illustrates the syntax of the `ORDER BY` clause:

```
SELECT column_1,column_2 FROM tbl_name ORDER BY column_1 ASC,column_2 DESC;
```

Let's examine the syntax of the `ORDER BY` clause in more detail:

- First, specify the column that you want to sort in the `ORDER BY` clause. If you sort the result set based on multiple columns, use a comma to separate between two columns.
- Second, use `ASC` to sort the result set in ascending order and `DESC` to sort the result set in descending order. If you leave it blank, the `ORDER BY` clause will use `ASC` by default.

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PostgreSQL `ORDER BY` examples

customer
* customer_id
store_id
first_name
last_name
email
address_id
activebool
create_date
last_update
active

The following query sorts customers by the first name in ascending order:

```
SELECT first_name, last_name FROM customer ORDER BY first_name ASC;
```

first_name	last_name
Aaron	Selby
Adam	Gooch
Adrian	Clary
Agnes	Bishop
Alan	Kahn
Albert	Crouse
Alberto	Henning
Alex	Gresham

If you want to sort the customers by the last name in descending order, you can use the `DESC` keyword as shown in the following query:

```
SELECT first_name, last_name FROM customer ORDER BY last_name DESC;
```

first_name	last_name
Cynthia	Young
Marvin	Yee
Luis	Yanez
Brian	Wyman
Brenda	Wright
Tyler	Wren
Florence	Woods
Lori	Wood

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If you want to sort the customers by the first name in the ascending order first, and then sort the sorted result set by the last name in descending order, you use the following statement:

```
SELECT first_name, last_name FROM customer ORDER BY first_name ASC, last_name DESC;
```

first_name	last_name
Kathleen	Adams
Kathryn	Coleman
Kathy	James
Katie	Elliott
Kay	Caldwell
Keith	Rico
Kelly	Torres
Kelly	Knott
Ken	Prewitt
Kenneth	Gooden