

Select – shows you how to query data from a single table

PostgreSQL `SELECT` statement syntax

Let's start with a basic form of the `SELECT` statement that retrieves data from a single table.

The following illustrates the syntax of the `SELECT` statement:

Query: `SELECT column_1, column_2, ...FROM table_name;`

Let's examine the `SELECT` statement in more detail:

- First, you specify the column of the table from which you want to query data in the `SELECT` clause. If you retrieve data from multiple columns, you use a comma to separate two columns. In case you want to query data from all columns, you can use an asterisk (*) as the shorthand.
- Second, you indicate the table name after the `FROM` keyword.

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PostgreSQL `SELECT` examples

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

To query data from all rows and all columns of the `customer` table, you use the following query:

```
SELECT * FROM customer;
```

customer_id	store_id	first_name	last_name	email	address_id	activebool	create_date	last_update	active
524	1	Jared	Ely	jared.ely@sakilacustomer.org	530	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
1	1	Mary	Smith	mary.smith@sakilacustomer.org	5	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
2	1	Patricia	Johnson	patricia.johnson@sakilacustomer.org	6	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
3	1	Linda	Williams	linda.williams@sakilacustomer.org	7	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
4	2	Barbara	Jones	barbara.jones@sakilacustomer.org	8	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
5	1	Elizabeth	Brown	elizabeth.brown@sakilacustomer.org	9	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
6	2	Jennifer	Davis	jennifer.davis@sakilacustomer.org	10	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
7	1	Maria	Miller	maria.miller@sakilacustomer.org	11	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
8	2	Susan	Wilson	susan.wilson@sakilacustomer.org	12	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
9	2	Margaret	Moore	margaret.moore@sakilacustomer.org	13	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
10	1	Dorothy	Taylor	dorothy.taylor@sakilacustomer.org	14	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
11	2	Lisa	Anderson	lisa.anderson@sakilacustomer.org	15	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1
12	1	Nancy	Thomas	nancy.thomas@sakilacustomer.org	16	t	2006-02-14	2013-05-26 14:49:45.738	1

Suppose you just want to know the first name, last name and email of customers, you can specify the column names in the `SELECT` statement as follows:

```
SELECT first_name, last_name, email FROM customer;
```

first_name	last_name	email
Jared	Ely	jared.ely@sakilacustomer.org
Mary	Smith	mary.smith@sakilacustomer.org
Patricia	Johnson	patricia.johnson@sakilacustomer.org
Linda	Williams	linda.williams@sakilacustomer.org

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