

SQL LIKE Operator

SQL LIKE operator is used with WHERE clause to matches specific pattern in a column. SQL LIKE condition apply on table column data.

Following two wildcards are often used with the LIKE operator

- % - Represents zero, or any number of characters
- _ - Represents a single character

Syntax

Considering following SQL LIKE condition syntax,

```
SELECT * FROM table_name
WHERE column_name LIKE 'pattern';
```

Pattern write inside opening or closing single delimit characters ("). Do not use double delimit characters (""") because double delimit use as delimiter identifier.

```
...WHERE column_name LIKE 'pattern';    -- Correct way
...WHERE column_name LIKE "pattern";    -- Incorrect way
```

SQL Wildcards Characters

SQL Wildcards characters used for searching string pattern. SQL Wildcard character use with LIKE condition for searching pattern string from database table.

Following Wildcard characters pattern use for certain type expression,

Wildcard	Description
_ (underscore sign)	Underscore sign matches any exactly single character with in string. Example. 'Op_l Kole', '_pal Kole', 'Opal Kol_'
% (Percentage sign)	Percentage sign matches any number of characters (0 or more characters). Example. 'Op%', '%Kole', 'Opal%'

SQL LIKE Example (with WILDCARD)

Considering following `user_info` table is our example table.

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM users_info;

NO  NAME                ADDRESS                CONTACT_NO
---  -
1  Opal Kole            63 street Ct.         000-444-7847
2  Max Miller           41 NEW ROAD.          000-444-8292
3  Beccaa Moss          2500 green city.      000-444-7586
4  Paul Singh           1343 Prospect St      000-444-7585
5  Ken Myer             137 Clay Road         000-444-7528
6  Jack Evans           1365 Grove Way        000-444-8401
7  Reed Koch            1274 West Street      000-444-5228
8  Gabe Hee             1220 Dallas Drive     000-444-5028
9  Ben Mares            101 Candy Road        000-444-5928
10  Sariya Vargas        145 Taxo court.       000-444-7454

10 rows selected.
```

LIKE with _ WILDCARD Character Example

SQL LIKE condition with _ (underscore) WILDCARD character to matches any exactly single character with in string.

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM users_info WHERE name LIKE 'Pa_l S__gh';

NO  NAME                ADDRESS                CONTACT_NO
---  -
4  Paul Singh           1343 Prospect St      000-444-7585

1 rows selected.
```

LIKE with % WILDCARD Character Example

SQL LIKE condition with % (percentage) WILDCARD character to matches any number of characters.

SQL> SELECT * FROM users_info WHERE name LIKE 'Paul%';

NO	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT_NO
4	Paul Singh	1343 Prospect St	000-444-7585

1 rows selected.

LIKE (_ WILDCARD Character) with NOT condition Example

SQL LIKE (_ WILDCARD character) with NOT condition to return all record only exclude pattern result.

SQL> SELECT * FROM users_info WHERE name NOT LIKE 'Pa_l S__gh';

NO	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT_NO
1	Opal Kole	63 street Ct.	000-444-7847
2	Max Miller	41 NEW ROAD.	000-444-8292
3	Beccaa Moss	2500 green city.	000-444-7586
5	Ken Myer	137 Clay Road	000-444-7528
6	Jack Evans	1365 Grove Way	000-444-8401
7	Reed Koch	1274 West Street	000-444-5228
8	Gabe Hee	1220 Dallas Drive	000-444-5028
9	Ben Mares	101 Candy Road	000-444-5928
10	Sariya Vargas	145 Taxo court.	000-444-7454

9 rows selected.

LIKE (% WILDCARD Character) with NOT condition Example

SQL LIKE (% WILDCARD character) with NOT condition to return all record only exclude pattern result.

SQL> SELECT * FROM users_info WHERE name NOT LIKE 'Paul%';

NO	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT_NO
1	Opal Kole	63 street Ct.	000-444-7847
2	Max Miller	41 NEW ROAD.	000-444-8292
3	Beccaa Moss	2500 green city.	000-444-7586
5	Ken Myer	137 Clay Road	000-444-7528
6	Jack Evans	1365 Grove Way	000-444-8401
7	Reed Koch	1274 West Street	000-444-5228
8	Gabe Hee	1220 Dallas Drive	000-444-5028
9	Ben Mares	101 Candy Road	000-444-5928
10	Sariya Vargas	145 Taxo court.	000-444-7454

9 rows selected.