Introduction to SQL Chapter 4

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Stats 167: Introduction to Databases

UCLA



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Getting Started

The Structure of SQL Databases

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Getting Started

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What is SQL?

A database is an organized collection of data.

A **relational** (or **SQL**) database is a database whose data is split into multiple tables, each of which stores related data.

Structured Query Language (SQL) is a language designed for communicating with relational databases.

Nearly every relational database management system (RDBMS or just DBMS) supports SQL, so learning one language will allow you to interact with nearly any database you will encounter.

While learning a new language may seem daunting, SQL has fairly limited vocabulary and minimal syntax rules, so learning to read and write common SQL statements is largely intuitive.

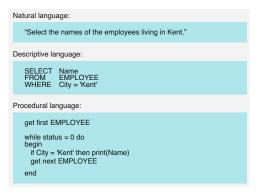
Side Note: SQL is sometimes pronounced as the letters "S-Q-L" or as "sequel."

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SQL is Descriptive

The ease of readability of SQL is because it is a **descriptive** language, which means SQL commands describe the actions we want and the DBMS will determine how to perform the actions.

In contrast, a **procedural** language would require specifying the method of how to perform the actions.



Source: Figure 1.5 in SQL and NoSQL Databases by Kaufmann and Meier, Second Edition, Springer, 2023.

SQL Extensions

Standard SQL is governed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards committee, so it is sometimes called **ANSI SQL**.

Many DBMSs have extended ANSI SQL by adding statements to provide additional functionality or simplification for certain operations. Individual implementations of SQL have their own names (e.g., PL-SQL is used by Oracle, Transact-SQL is used by Microsoft SQL Server, etc.).

We will focus on ANSI SQL (since it is shared by all DBMSs), but we will note if/when we use DBMS-specific SQL statements.

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Common DBMSs

The specific DBMS you may use in the future will depend on the company you work for (and possibly even the operating system you use). Some common DBMSs are Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, and PostgreSQL.



We will use **SQLite**, which is a serverless DBMS that does not require any complicated installation or configuration.



For more information on SQLite: https://www.sqlite.org/index.html

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DB Browser for SQLite

For a free downloadable software to use SQLite, we will use **DB Browser for SQLite** (**DB4S**).

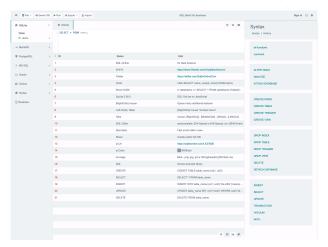


Download at: https://sqlitebrowser.org/dl/

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SQLite Online

For a web-based alternative (no download required) to implement SQLite in any web browser: https://sqliteonline.com/



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Accessing the Data

To access a database in most DBMSs, you will need to establish a connection to a server with login credentials (usually provided by your employer).

For SQLite, data can be loaded using a .sql or .sqlite file.

The data used in this lecture is in the TYSQL.sqlite file posted on the course website.

The data is from the book Sams Teach Yourself SQL in 10 Minutes a Day, 5th Edition by Ben Forta.

Book website: https://forta.com/books/0135182794/

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Loading the Data

In DB Browser for SQLite:

- Click on "Open Database"
- ► Find the folder that contains the .sqlite data file, click on the file name, and then click "Open".

The "Execute SQL" tab will open the window to write and execute SQL statements.

In SQLite Online:

- ► Click on "+"
- Click on "Open SQLite DB"
- ► Find the folder that contains the .sqlite data file, click on the file name, and then click "Open".

The main window on SQLite Online has the window to execute SQL statements.

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The Structure of SQL Databases

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The Structure of SQL Databases

Data in a relational database is typically organized into **tables** of data, where each **record** (or observation) is stored in **rows** and each **field** (or attribute or variable) is stored in **columns**.

Each column in a database has an associated **datatype**, which defines the type of data the column can contain, e.g., dates, text, currency, integers, etc. The datatype of a column restricts the type of data that can be stored in it.

Tables in a database are organized similar to tidy data frames in R:

- ► Every row is an observation.
- Every column is a variable.
- Every column has a specific data type.

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Primary Keys

A minimal set of columns (or attributes) whose values uniquely identifies every row in a table is called a **primary key**.

Any column in a table can be defined as the primary key, as long as it satisfies the following conditions:

- ▶ No two rows have the same primary key value.
- Every row must have a value in the primary key column(s) (i.e., no NULL values).
- Primary key values should never be modified or updated.
- Primary key values should never be reused.

Examples: Student ID numbers, ISBN for books, driver's license numbers, etc.

Note: Primary keys are not technically required, but they are usually seen as necessary, as they are fundamental to creating relations between tables.

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Foreign Keys

The relations between tables in a relational database are specified through foreign keys.

A **foreign key** is a column in a table whose values must be listed in a primary key of another table.

Foreign keys are used to create references between tables.

They also ensure **referential integrity**, so no accidental updates or deletions of rows in one table affects other tables.

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Schemas

The **schema** of a database is an outline of its overall structure.

A schema for a relational database about movie ratings is shown below¹.



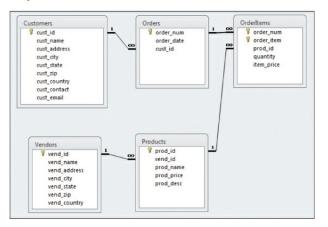
The id key in the users table relates the users data to the ratings and tags tables as user_id, while the id key in the movies table relates to ratings and tags as movie_id.

Notice that the users and movies tables do not have a direct relationship, rather they are connected through the other tables in the database.

¹Source: https://www.heavy.ai/technical-glossary/relational-database

Schema of the TYSQL Data

The TYSQL database we will use in this lecture contains data from a fictitious toy store. This is a schema of the TYSQL database:



Source: Ben Forta, *SQL in 10 Minutes a Day, Sams Teach Yourself, 5th Edition*, Pearson, 2020.

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Browse the Data

Before we introduce SQL statements, you can browse through the TYSQL database first to get a sense of the data.

In DB Browser for SQLite:

- Click on the "Browse Data" tab
- Click on the Table you want to browse

In SQLite Online:

- ► In the left window with the database information, right-click on the table name
- Click on "SELECT (Show table)"

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Types of SQL Commands

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SQL Sublanguages

The SQL language can be separated into a few categories of commands, or sublanguages, that perform various functions.

The main categories of commands are:

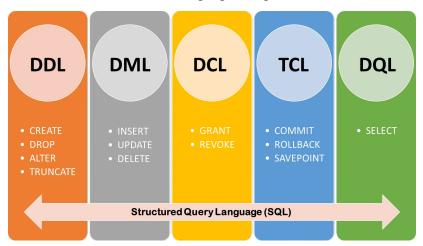
- Data Definition Language (DDL)
- Data Manipulation Language (DML)
- Data Control Language (DCL)
- Transaction Control Language (TCL)
- Data Query Language (DQL)

We will not emphasize most of these sublanguages, but it is helpful to have an overview of the language and have a basic understanding of their purpose.

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Types of SQL Commands

An overview of the SQL sublanguage categories:



Source: Analytics Vidhya article "A Quick Refresher on All the Commonly used SQL Commands!"

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Data Definition Language (DDL)

The **Data Definition Language (DDL)** is the part of SQL used to create and restructure database objects, such as creating or deleting (or dropping) a table.

The fundamental DDL commands are:

- ► CREATE
- ► ALTER
- ▶ DROP
- ► TRUNCATE

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Data Manipulation Language (DML)

The **Data Manipulation Language (DML)** is the part of SQL used to manipulate data within objects of a database.

The fundamental DML commands are:

- ► INSERT
- UPDATE
- ▶ DELETE

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Data Control Language (DCL)

The **Data Control Language (DCL)** is the part of SQL used to control database access privileges.

The fundamental DCL commands are:

- ► GRANT
- ► REVOKE

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Transaction Control Language (TCL)

A **transaction** is a unit of work that consists of one or more database operations. By using and managing transactions, the DBMS ensures that CRUD operations (e.g., updating entire rows of data) are done either wholly completed or not at all.

The **Transaction Control Language (TCL)** is the part of SQL used to manage database transactions.

The fundamental TCL commands are:

- ► COMMIT
- ► ROLLBACK
- ► SAVEPOINT

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Data Query Language (DQL)

The **Data Query Language (DQL)** is the part of SQL used to query or retrieve data from a database.

The single fundamental DQL command is:

► SELECT

Even though the DQL is ultimately based on a single command, it has additional clauses that are added to specify the exact data we want to query.

The DQL will be the primary focus of the course, as it encompasses by far the most common SQL commands you will use as a data scientist.

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Basic SQL Queries

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Basic SQL Statement Terminology

Some basic terminology:

- A SQL command is called a statement.
- ► SQL statements are made up of one or more **keywords**, which are defined words in the SQL language.
- A SQL statement that returns a dataset is called a query (informally, statement and query are often used interchangeably).
- ► A component of a SQL statement is called a **clause**, usually consisting of a keyword and data.

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Basic SQL Syntax Rules

Some general SQL syntax rules:

Keywords are not case sensitive, though tables, columns, and values might be.

We will write keywords in ALL CAPS for clarity.

Multiple SQL statements must be separated by semicolons (;), but a semicolon is not always required for single SQL statements (it can depend on the DBMS).

We will include a semicolon at the end of each statement to ensure they always work.

Extra whitespace in SQL statements is ignored, but it is common to break up statements into multiple lines for readability and debugging.

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A Full SQL Query Example

We will start from a full SQL query example to show its readability and then discuss its component parts.

```
SELECT vend_id, COUNT(*) AS num_prods
FROM Products
WHERE prod_price >= 4
GROUP BY vend_id
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 2
ORDER BY num_prods;
```

num_prods
2
3

What is this SQL query asking for?

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SELECT and FROM

The most common statement in SQL is the SELECT statement, which is used to retrieve columns of data from one or more tables.

In its basic form, a SELECT statement needs the column name(s) to select and a FROM clause that specifies which table to select from.

For example, the following query selects the prod_name column from the Products table:

SELECT prod_name
FROM Products;

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SELECT Output

SELECT prod_name
FROM Products;

prod_name

8 inch teddy bear 12 inch teddy bear 18 inch teddy bear Fish bean bag toy Bird bean bag toy Rabbit bean bag toy Raggedy Ann King doll Queen doll

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Selecting Multiple Columns

A single SELECT statement can be used to select multiple columns, with column names separated by commas.

SELECT prod_id, prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products;

prod_id	prod_name	prod_price
BR01	8 inch teddy bear	5.99
BR02	12 inch teddy bear	8.99
BR03	18 inch teddy bear	11.99
BNBG01	Fish bean bag toy	3.49
BNBG02	Bird bean bag toy	3.49
BNBG03	Rabbit bean bag toy	3.49
RGAN01	Raggedy Ann	4.99
RYL01	King doll	9.49
RYL02	Queen doll	9.49

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Selecting All Columns

The asterisk (*) wildcard character can be used to select all columns from a table.

SELECT *

FROM Products;

prod_id	vend_id	prod_name	prod_price	prod_desc
BR01	BRS01	8 inch teddy bear	5.99	8 inch teddy bear, comes with cap and jacket
BR02	BRS01	12 inch teddy bear	8.99	12 inch teddy bear, comes with cap and jacket
BR03	BRS01	18 inch teddy bear	11.99	18 inch teddy bear, comes with cap and jacket
BNBG01	DLL01	Fish bean bag toy	3.49	Fish bean bag toy, complete with bean bag worms with which to feed it
BNBG02	DLL01	Bird bean bag toy	3.49	Bird bean bag toy, eggs are not included
BNBG03	DLL01	Rabbit bean bag toy	3.49	Rabbit bean bag toy, comes with bean bag carrots
RGAN01	DLL01	Raggedy Ann	4.99	18 inch Raggedy Ann doll
RYL01	FNG01	King doll	9.49	12 inch king doll with royal garments and crown
RYL02	FNG01	Queen doll	9.49	12 inch queen doll with royal garments and crown

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SELECT DISTINCT

To select distinct (or unique) rows, include the DISTINCT keyword in the SELECT statement.

SELECT DISTINCT vend_id, prod_price
FROM Products;

vend_id	prod_price
BRS01	5.99
BRS01	8.99
BRS01	11.99
DLL01	3.49
DLL01	4.99
FNG01	9.49

Note: SELECT DISTINCT will be applied to all columns, so the query above retrieved all six unique combinations of vend_id and prod_price.

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WHERE

The WHERE clause is used to specify **search criteria** or a **filter condition**.

For example:

```
SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE prod_price = 3.49;
```

prod_name	prod_price
Fish bean bag toy Bird bean bag toy	3.49 3.49
Rabbit bean bag toy	3.49

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WHERE Clause Operators

The WHERE clause supports many conditional operators:

	•
=	Equality
<>	Nonequality
! =	Nonequality
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
!<	Not less than
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
!>	Not greater than
BETWEEN	Between two specified values
IS NULL	Is a NULL (i.e., missing) value

Note: Some operators listed are redundant (e.g., !< and >= are equivalent), and not all operators are supported by all DBMSs.

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Some WHERE Examples

Some queries that use the WHERE clause:

SELECT vend_id, prod_name

```
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id <> 'DLLO1';

SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE prod price BETWEEN 5 AND 10;
```

```
SELECT cust_name
FROM Customers
WHERE cust_email IS NULL;
```

Note: Strings are usually enclosed in single quotation marks (''), though double quotation marks ("") also work here.

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The AND, OR, and NOT Operators

The AND, OR, and NOT logical operators can be used to combine or negate WHERE clause conditions.

For example:

```
SELECT prod id, prod name, prod price
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id = 'DLL01' AND prod_price <= 4;</pre>
SELECT prod_id, prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id = 'DLL01' OR vend_id = 'BRS01';
SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE NOT vend id = 'DLL01';
```

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Use Parentheses

For complicated WHERE clauses, use parentheses to clarify the order of operations:

```
SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE (vend_id = 'DLLO1' OR vend_id = 'BRS01')
   AND prod_price >= 10;
```

Side Note: In the natural order of operations, AND takes precedence over OR, but it is better not to rely on remembering the order.

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The IN Operator

The IN operator is used to specify a list of valid values, any one of which can be matched. The valid values are enclosed in parentheses and separated by commas.

```
SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id IN ('DLL01', 'BRS01');
```

For short lists, this is equivalent to (though slightly more efficient than) OR:

```
SELECT prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id = 'DLL01' OR vend_id = 'BRS01';
```

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Calculated Fields and Aliases

A **calculated field** is a new column that is created by combining values in other columns.

The calculated field does not inherently have a (column) name. The AS keyword is used to assign an **alias**, or alternate name, to the column in the output.

The standard arithmetic operations +, -, *, and / work when calculating numeric calculated fields.

Side Note: The AS keyword can be used to assign an alias to any column, not just calculated fields.

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Example of a Calculated Field

For example:

prod_id	quantity	item_price	expanded_price
RGAN01	5	4.99	24.95
BR03	5	11.99	59.95
BNBG01	10	3.49	34.90
BNBG02	10	3.49	34.90
BNBG03	10	3.49	34.90

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Aggregate Functions

An **aggregate function** is a function that operates on several rows to calculate and return a single value.

The five aggregate functions in SQL are listed below.

Function	Description
AVG()	Returns a column's average (mean) value
COUNT()	Returns the number of rows in a column
MAX()	Returns a column's maximum value
MIN()	Returns a column's minimum value
SUM()	Returns the sum of a column's values

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Aggregate Functions Examples

For example:

```
SELECT AVG(prod_price) AS avg_price
FROM Products
WHERE vend_id = 'DLL01';
```

avg_price 3.865

```
SELECT SUM(item_price * quantity) AS total_price
FROM OrderItems
WHERE order_num = 20005;
```

total_price

Two Ways to COUNT()

The COUNT() function can be used in two ways:

- ► COUNT(*) will count the number of rows in a table, whether columns contain values or NULL values.
- ► COUNT(column) will count the number of rows that have values in a specific column, ignoring NULL values.

Note: All other aggregate functions will automatically ignore column rows with NULL values.

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COUNT Examples

```
For example:
```

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS num_cust
FROM Customers;
```

num_cust 6

```
SELECT COUNT(cust_email) AS num_cust
FROM Customers;
```

```
num_cust
```

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GROUP BY

The GROUP BY clause is used to divide data into logical sets in order to perform aggregate calculations on each group.

For example:

```
SELECT vend_id, COUNT(*) AS num_prods
FROM Products
GROUP BY vend_id;
```

vend_id	num_prods
BRS01	3
DLL01	4
FNG01	2

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HAVING

In conjuction with the GROUP BY clause, the HAVING clause is used to filter which groups to include or exclude.

For example:

```
SELECT cust_id, COUNT(*) AS orders
FROM Orders
GROUP BY cust_id
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 2;
```

cust_id	orders
100000001	2

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WHERE vs HAVING

Both WHERE and HAVING clauses are used for filtering conditions, and their syntax is identical (other than the keyword).

The main difference between WHERE and HAVING:

- ▶ WHERE filters data *before* it is grouped.
- ► HAVING filters data *after* it is grouped.

In particular, when using both clauses, the rows that are eliminated by a WHERE clause will not be included in the group, which may change any calculated values and which groups are filtered.

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WHERE and HAVING Example

For example:

```
SELECT vend_id, COUNT(*) AS num_prods
FROM Products
WHERE prod_price >= 4
GROUP BY vend_id
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 2;
```

vend_id	num_prods
BRS01	3
FNG01	2

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WHERE and HAVING Comparison

Compare the preceding query to the following one:

```
SELECT vend_id, COUNT(*) AS num_prods
FROM Products
GROUP BY vend_id
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 2;
```

vend_id	num_prods
BRS01	3
DLL01	4
FNG01	2

In the first query, some rows from the vendor 'DLL01' were filtered out based on the product price before grouping, even though the vendor has more than 2 products.

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ORDER BY

The output of SQL queries is typically displayed in the order it appears in the underlying tables. If entries are deleted or updated, the order may be affected by how the DBMS reuses storage space.

The ORDER BY clause is used to sort the output by the values in one or more columns. To sort by multiple columns, specify the column names separated by commas.

The default ordering with ORDER BY is in ascending order (from A to Z). To sort in descending order, the DESC keyword can be added after the column name.

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ORDER BY Example

For example:

```
SELECT order_num, COUNT(*) AS items
FROM OrderItems
GROUP BY order_num
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 3
ORDER BY items DESC, order_num;
```

order_num	items
20007	5
20008	5
20006	3
20009	3

Notice that the output is sorted first by items (in descending order) and then by order_num (in ascending order).

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Limiting the Output

SELECT statements return all matched rows. If the output is very large, it may be useful to limit the results to a certain number of rows. Different DBMSs use different keywords to achieve this.

The DBMS-specific keywords used here will not work in other DBMSs.

For example, Microsoft SQL Server uses the TOP keyword to limit the number of rows:

```
SELECT TOP 5 prod_name
FROM Products;
```

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Variations on Limiting the Output

DB2 uses the FETCH FIRST clause, which is specific to that DBMS:

```
SELECT prod_name
FROM Products
FETCH FIRST 5 ROWS ONLY;
```

Oracle uses the ROWNUM to restrict output based on row numbers:

```
SELECT prod_name
FROM Products
WHERE ROWNUM <= 5;</pre>
```

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LIMIT

In MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, and SQLite (which we are using), the LIMIT clause controls the number of rows to output.

SELECT prod_name
FROM Products
LIMIT 5;

prod_name

8 inch teddy bear 12 inch teddy bear 18 inch teddy bear Fish bean bag toy Bird bean bag toy

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OFFSET

Often used in conjunction with LIMIT (though not necessarily), the OFFSET keyword specifies the number of rows to skip.

For example:

```
SELECT prod_name
FROM Products
LIMIT 5 OFFSET 5;
```

prod_name
Rabbit bean bag toy
Raggedy Ann
King doll
Queen doll

This query returns the 6th through 9th rows of the output (there were only four rows left).

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SELECT Clause Ordering

The order of SELECT statement clauses matters. The table below shows the order in which the clauses must be used.

Clause	Description	Required
SELECT	Columns or expressions to be returned	Yes
FROM	Table to retrieve data from	Only if selecting data from a table
WHERE	Row-level filtering	No
GROUP BY	Group specification	Only if calculating aggregates by group
HAVING	Group-level filtering	No
ORDER BY	Output sort order	No
LIMIT	Limits number of rows	No

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Leveraging Intuition From R

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It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like dplyr

The format and readability of SQL queries is reminiscent of an R command using dplyr.

In fact, some of the main clauses in SQL have equivalent functions in dplyr, so we can leverage our knowledge of R and dplyr to help us gain intuition when reading and writing SQL statements.

dplyr Function	SQL Equivalent
select()	SELECT
filter()	WHERE or HAVING (depends on context)
<pre>group_by()</pre>	GROUP BY
<pre>summarize()</pre>	Aggregated columns
<pre>mutate()</pre>	User-defined columns
arrange()	ORDER BY

Note: The order of dplyr functions is not always critical, but SQL is very strict about the order of the clauses in a SQL statement.

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Translating SELECT Statements into R

As a simple example, consider the following SQL statement:

```
SELECT prod_id, prod_name, prod_price
FROM Products
WHERE prod_price > 8
ORDER BY prod_price;
```

prod_id	prod_name	prod_price
BR02	12 inch teddy bear	8.99
RYL01	King doll	9.49
RYL02	Queen doll	9.49
BR03	18 inch teddy bear	11.99

Question: If Products is a data frame (or tibble) in R, how would you translate this SQL query into an R command using dplyr?

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The dplyr Equivalent

In dplyr:

```
Products |>
  select(prod_id, prod_name, prod_price) |>
  filter(prod_price > 8) |>
  arrange(prod_price)
```

	<pre>prod_id</pre>			prod_	name	<pre>prod_price</pre>
1	BR02	12	${\tt inch}$	teddy	bear	8.99
2	RYL01			King	doll	9.49
3	RYL02			Queen	doll	9.49
4	BR03	18	inch	teddy	bear	11.99

Note that the components of this dplyr command can be rearranged, but the order of the clauses in the SQL statement matters.

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Exercise: Translation to R

Let's revisit this SQL query:

```
SELECT vend_id, COUNT(*) AS num_prods
FROM Products
WHERE prod_price >= 4
GROUP BY vend_id
HAVING COUNT(*) >= 2
ORDER BY num_prods;
```

vend_id	num_prods
FNG01	2
BRS01	3

Question: Can you translate this SQL query into an R command using dplyr?

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Solution: The dplyr Equivalent

The same query in dplyr:

```
Products |>
  filter(prod_price >= 4) |>
  group_by(vend_id) |>
  summarize(num_prods = length(vend_id)) |>
  filter(num_prods >= 2) |>
  arrange(num_prods) |>
  select(vend_id, num_prods)
```

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