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## 26.1 Introduction

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## INFORMATION\_SCHEMA Usage Notes

[INFORMATION\\_SCHEMA](#) is a database within each MySQL instance, the place that stores information about all the other databases that the MySQL server maintains. The [INFORMATION\\_SCHEMA](#) database contains several read-only tables. They are actually views, not base tables, so there are no files associated with them, and you cannot set triggers on them. Also, there is no database directory with that name.

Although you can select [INFORMATION\\_SCHEMA](#) as the default database with a [USE](#) statement, you can only read the contents of tables, not perform [INSERT](#), [UPDATE](#), or [DELETE](#) operations on them.

Here is an example of a statement that retrieves information from [INFORMATION\\_SCHEMA](#):

```
mysql> SELECT table_name, table_type, engine
FROM information_schema.tables
WHERE table_schema = 'db5'
ORDER BY table_name;
```

table_name	table_type	engine
fk	BASE TABLE	InnoDB
fk2	BASE TABLE	InnoDB
goto	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
into	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
k	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
kurs	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
loop	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
pk	BASE TABLE	InnoDB
t	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
t2	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
t3	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
t7	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
tables	BASE TABLE	MyISAM
v	VIEW	NULL
v2	VIEW	NULL
v3	VIEW	NULL
v56	VIEW	NULL