

STUDY GUIDE

EXPLORING SQL DATA WITH BASIC QUERIES

Benefits of SQL

SQL enables us to ask specific and complicated questions about the data it contains. We can ask a database that includes hundreds of tables to return data from a single column.

SQL Keywords and Formatting

- Keywords trigger a specific action.
- SELECT retrieves columns from a table. Adding DISTINCT to the SELECT command removes duplicates so SQL only returns a distinct value.
- FROM refers to the table from which you are pulling data.
- The lower-case words are specific to each database and are determined by the unique needs of your industry.
- In general, it's best to separate each clause on a new line.
- SQL queries usually end with semicolons.
- In SQL, the star, or asterisk, is shorthand for "all columns."
- ORDER BY ASC sorts text from A–Z and arranges numerical values from smallest to largest.
- ORDER BY DESC sorts numerical values will be listed from highest to lowest and text from Z–A.
- LIMIT followed by a numeral tells SQL how many results to give you.