SQL Commands I

Retrieving data from a database is one of the main uses of SQL. In SQL, there are two main clauses that are used to pull data: SELECT and FROM. Anytime you want to learn more about a topic, you could use SQL to retrieve information from a database about that topic! For example, if you're deciding between two items to purchase, you can use SQL to retrieve information that helps you compare their features and prices.

SELECT and FROM

The SELECT FROM statement is used to select data from a database. The SELECT clause begins with the SELECT keyword and is followed by specified column names that you want to pull. You can specify as many or as few column names as you want.

This clause is then followed by the FROM clause, which specifies which table in your database you're pulling the columns from. The structure of the SELECT FROM statement is this:

```
SELECT column1, column2, …
FROM table_name;
```

Remember to include the semicolon ; at the end of a statement. Imagine that you're a manager at a company and you're checking three of your employees' logged work hours for the month to make sure that their entries are correct. Say there is a table, August_21_Hours, that has this information, with columns corresponding to every employee name at the company. You can pull your employees' hours logged by using a SELECT FROM statement, shown below.

```
SELECT AndreC, TiffanyL, GraceW
FROM August_21_Hours;
```

As you can see, the SELECT FROM statement is pretty straightforward. Now, what if you want to see the hours logged for every employee at the company? SQL has a shortcut to pull all columns without having to write out each one in the statement: you can use an asterisk in place of the column names.

For this example, the statement would look like this:

```
SELECT *
FROM August_21_Hours;
```

*Using the asterisk * in place of a column name after SELECT is a shortcut to pull all columns from a table.*

LIMIT

If you're just trying to get a sense of the data or output, you may want to only see the first 10, 50, or 100 rows of your query results. In general, if you want to limit the number of records shown in the Data Output, you can use the LIMIT command using the following structure.

```
SELECT column1, column2, …
FROM table_name
LIMIT number of records;
```

Below, the LIMIT command is used to pull just the first 10 records of the table film.

Query Editor | Query History | Scratch Pad

```
SELECT *
FROM film
LIMIT 10;
```

Data Output | Explain | Messages | Notifications

	film_id [PK] integer	title character varying (255)	description text	release_year integer	language_id smallint	original_language_id smallint	rental_duration smallint	rental
1	1	ACADEMY DINOSAUR	A Epic Drama of...	2006	1	[null]	6	
2	2	ACE GOLDFINGER	A Astounding E...	2006	1	[null]	3	
3	3	ADAPTATION HOLES	A Astounding R...	2006	1	[null]	7	
4	4	AFFAIR PREJUDICE	A Fanciful Docu...	2006	1	[null]	5	
5	5	AFRICAN EGG	A Fast-Paced D...	2006	1	[null]	6	
6	6	AGENT TRUMAN	A Intrepid Panor...	2006	1	[null]	3	
7	7	AIRPLANE SIERRA	A Touching Sag...	2006	1	[null]	6	
8	8	AIRPORT POLLOCK	A Epic Tale of a ...	2006	1	[null]	6	
9	9	ALABAMA DEVIL	A Thoughtful Pa...	2006	1	[null]	3	
10	10	ALADDIN CALENDAR	A Action-Packe...	2006	1	[null]	6	