

SQL - Show Tables (Listing Tables)

There are several instances when you need to retrieve a list of tables from your database. This could be done for testing purposes, to identify any existing tables before adding or removing any, or for any other reason. This tutorial will discuss how we can list down all the table in MySQL, SQL Server and Oracle using simple SQL commands.

MySQL - Listing Tables

You can use SQL **SHOW TABLES** statements in MySQL to list down all the tables available in a selected database.

Syntax

Following is the syntax to list all the tables in SQL in MySQL -

```
SHOW TABLES;
```

Example

Following is an example which will list down all the tables from a **testDB** database.

```
USE testDB;
```

```
SHOW TABLES;
```

Tables_in_testDB

CALENDAR

CUSTOMERS

COMPANIES

SALARY

SQL Server - Listing Tables

SQL Server **does not** provide SHOW TABLE command in an SQL Server. Instead, we can use the "SELECT" statement to retrieve information about tables in a database. We have three different commands to use with the SELECT statement to list all the tables in a database -

`sys.tables``information_schema.tables``sysobjects`

The SYS.TABLES View

Following is the syntax to list down all the tables in SQL using the **SYS.TABLES** view -

```
SELECT * FROM SYS.TABLES;
```

Following is the output of the above query -

name	object_id	principal_id	schema_id
CUSTOMER	4195065	NULL	1
ORDERS	68195293	NULL	1
COMPANIES	100195407	NULL	1



The INFORMATION_SCHEMA.TABLES View

Following is the syntax to list down all the tables in SQL using the **INFORMATION_SCHEMA.TABLES** view -

```
SELECT table_name, table_type FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.TABLES
```

Following is the output of the above query -

table_name	table_type
CUSTOMER	BASE TABLE
ORDERS	BASE TABLE
COMPANIES	BASE TABLE
SALARY	BASE TABLE

The SYSOBJECTS View

You can use **SYSOBJECTS** view to retrieve the information of all the objects created in SQL Server database, including stored procedures, views, system tables and user-defined tables. Following is the basic syntax of using sysobjects view -

```
SELECT name, id, xtype FROM sysobjects WHERE xtype = 'U';
```

[Click here to see the different value of xtype](#)

This will produce following result -

name	id	xtype
CUSTOMER	4195065	U
ORDERS	68195293	U

Oracle - Listing Tables

There are following three SQL SELECT statements which you can use to list down the tables available in Oracle.

Listing ALL Tables

Following is the SQL SELECT statement which will list down all the available tables in an Oracle Database.

```
SELECT owner, table_name FROM ALL_TABLES
```

Listing DBA Tables

Following is the SQL SELECT statement which will list down all the DBA related tables in an Oracle Database.

```
SELECT owner, table_name FROM DBA_TABLES
```

Listing USER Tables

Following is the SQL SELECT statement which will list down all the USER created tables in an Oracle Database.

```
SELECT owner, table_name FROM USER_TABLES
```

Listing ALL Views

Following is the SQL SELECT statement which will list down all the views available in an Oracle Database.

```
SELECT view_name FROM ALL_VIEWS;
```