

SQL Tutorial on Single Row Functions

Introduction:

Single row functions are powerful tools that operate on individual rows of a database table and return one result per row. They are especially useful for string manipulations, formatting, and data clean-up tasks. In this tutorial, we'll cover several essential SQL string functions with detailed examples and different parameter usages.

1. UPPER, LOWER, INITCAP

UPPER Function:

The `UPPER` function converts all characters in a string to uppercase.

- **Syntax:**

```
UPPER(string)
```

- **Example 1: Basic Usage**

```
SELECT UPPER('hello world') AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
HELLO WORLD
```

- **Example 2: With Column Data** Suppose we have a table `employees` with a `name` column, and we want to retrieve all names in uppercase.

```
SELECT UPPER(name) AS upper_name FROM employees;
```

LOWER Function:

The `LOWER` function converts all characters in a string to lowercase.

- **Syntax:**

```
LOWER(string)
```

- **Example 1: Basic Usage**

```
SELECT LOWER('HELLO WORLD') AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
hello world
```

- **Example 2: Lowercase with Column Data** You can convert emails to lowercase in a table `users`.

```
SELECT LOWER(email) AS normalized_email FROM users;
```

INITCAP Function:

The `INITCAP` function capitalizes the first letter of each word in a string and converts the remaining letters to lowercase.

- **Syntax:**

```
INITCAP(string)
```

- **Example 1: Basic Usage**

```
SELECT INITCAP('this is a sql tutorial') AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
This Is A Sql Tutorial
```

- **Example 2: Handling Mixed Case Input**

```
SELECT INITCAP('wElCome TO THE dAtaBAse') AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
Welcome To The Database
```

2. LEFT, RIGHT

LEFT Function:

The `LEFT` function returns a specified number of characters from the left side of a string.

- **Syntax:**

```
LEFT(string, number_of_characters)
```

- **Example 1: Basic Usage**

```
SELECT LEFT('Database', 4) AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
Data
```

- **Example 2: Extracting Parts of Phone Numbers** Suppose we have a `contacts` table and we want to extract the country code from phone numbers.

```
SELECT LEFT(phone_number, 3) AS country_code FROM contacts;
```

RIGHT Function:

The `RIGHT` function returns a specified number of characters from the right side of a string.

- **Syntax:**

```
RIGHT(string, number_of_characters)
```

- **Example 1: Basic Usage**

```
SELECT RIGHT('Database', 4) AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
base
```

3. LPAD, RPAD, TRIM

LPAD Function:

The `LPAD` function pads a string on the left side with a specified character until it reaches a desired length.

- **Syntax:**

```
LPAD(string, padded_length, pad_string)
```

- **Example 1: Padding with Zeroes**

```
SELECT LPAD('123', 6, '0') AS padded_value;
```

Output:

```
PADDED_VALUE
-----
000123
```

- **Example 2: Padding Employee IDs** For employee IDs with varying lengths, we can pad them with zeroes.

```
SELECT LPAD(employee_id, 5, '0') AS formatted_id FROM employees;
```

RPAD Function:

The `RPAD` function pads a string on the right side with a specified character until it reaches a desired length.

- **Syntax:**

```
RPAD(string, padded_length, pad_string)
```

- **Example 1: Padding with Dashes**

```
SELECT RPAD('123', 6, '-') AS padded_value;
```

Output:

```
PADDED_VALUE
-----
123---
```

- **Example 2: Padding Product Codes**

```
SELECT RPAD(product_code, 10, '*') AS formatted_code FROM products;
```

TRIM Function:

The `TRIM` function removes leading, trailing, or both leading and trailing spaces (or other specified characters) from a string.

- **Syntax:**

```
TRIM([LEADING | TRAILING | BOTH] trim_character FROM string)
```

- **Example 1: Removing Leading and Trailing Spaces**

```
SELECT TRIM('   SQL Tutorial   ') AS trimmed_value;
```

Output:

```
TRIMMED_VALUE
-----
SQL Tutorial
```

- **Example 2: Trimming Custom Characters**

```
SELECT TRIM(BOTH 'x' FROM 'xxxSQLxxx') AS result;
```

Output:

```
RESULT
-----
SQL
```

4. LENGTH, REVERSE

LENGTH Function:

The `LENGTH` function returns the number of characters in a string.

- **Syntax:**

```
LENGTH(string)
```

- **Example 1: Finding String Length**

```
SELECT LENGTH('Database Management') AS string_length;
```

Output:

```
STRING_LENGTH
-----
21
```

- **Example 2: Checking Password Length**

```
SELECT LENGTH(password) AS password_length FROM users WHERE
LENGTH(password) < 8;
```

REVERSE Function:

The `REVERSE` function reverses the characters in a string.

- **Syntax:**

```
REVERSE(string)
```

- **Example 1: Reversing a String**

```
SELECT REVERSE('SQL') AS reversed_string;
```

Output:

```
REVERSED_STRING
-----
LQS
```

- **Example 2: Reversing Email Addresses**

```
SELECT REVERSE(email) AS reversed_email FROM users;
```

5. REPLACE

REPLACE Function:

The `REPLACE` function replaces occurrences of a substring within a string with another substring.

- **Syntax:**

```
REPLACE(string, search_string, replace_string)
```

- **Example 1: Replacing Words in a Sentence**

```
SELECT REPLACE('Learn SQL with tutorials', 'tutorials', 'examples')  
AS replaced_value;
```

Output:

```
REPLACED_VALUE  
-----  
Learn SQL with examples
```

- **Example 2: Replacing Product Codes** Suppose you have old product codes that need to be updated in a `products` table:

```
SELECT REPLACE(product_code, 'OLD', 'NEW') AS updated_code FROM  
products;
```