

# Reading: Examples to ALTER and TRUNCATE tables using MySQL

*In the previous video, the ALTER and TRUNCATE syntax applies to DB2. There are variations in syntax between different databases. In this reading, we will discuss some examples of ALTER and TRUNCATE statements using MySQL.*

Estimated time: 5 min

## Objective(s)

At the end of this reading, you will be able to:

- Learn ALTER TABLE statement and syntax
- Learn TRUNCATE statements and syntax
- Examples of ALTER and TRUNCATE statements

## ALTER TABLE

ALTER TABLE statements used to add or remove columns from a table, to modify the data type of columns, to add or remove keys, and to add or remove constraints. The syntax of the ALTER TABLE statement is:

### ADD COLUMN syntax

- 1.
- 2.

1. ALTER TABLE table\_name
2. ADD COLUMN column\_name data\_type column\_constraint;

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For example, to add a **telephone\_number** column to the **author** table in the **library** database, the statement will be written as:

- 1.
- 2.

1. ALTER TABLE author
2. ADD COLUMN telephone\_number BIGINT;

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author_id	lastname	firstname	email	city	country	telephone_number
1001	Thomas	John	johnt@...	New York	USA	5551111
1002	James	Alice	alicej@...	Seattle	USA	5551112
1003	Wells	Steve	steve@...	Montreal	Canada	5552222
1004	Kumar	Santosh	kumars@...	London	UK	5553333

### ALTER TABLE column syntax

- 1.
- 2.

1. ALTER TABLE table\_name CHANGE column\_name
2. column\_name VARCHAR(20);

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For example, using a **numeric** data type for **telephone\_number** means that you cannot include **parentheses, plus signs, or dashes as part of the number**.

author_id	lastname	firstname	email	city	country	telephone_number
1001	Thomas	John	johnt@...	New York	USA	555-1111
1002	James	Alice	alicej@...	Seattle	USA	555-1112
1003	Wells	Steve	steve@...	Montreal	Canada	555-2222
1004	Kumar	Santosh	kumars@...	London	UK	555-3333

You can change the column to use the **CHAR** data type to overcome this. To modify the data type, the statement will be written as:

- 1.
  - 2.
- ```
1. ALTER TABLE author CHANGE telephone_number  
2.     telephone_number CHAR(20);
```

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## TRUNCATE Table

TRUNCATE TABLE statement are used to delete all of the rows in a table. The syntax of the statement is:

- 1.
1. TRUNCATE TABLE table\_name;

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So, to truncate the author's table, the statement will be written as:

- 1.
1. TRUNCATE TABLE author;

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| author_id | lastname | firstname | email | city | country |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|------|---------|
|           |          |           |       |      |         |
|           |          |           |       |      |         |
|           |          |           |       |      |         |
|           |          |           |       |      |         |

*TRUNCATE statement will just delete the rows and not the table.*

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## Change Log

| <b>Date (YYYY-MM-DD)</b> | <b>Version</b> | <b>Changed By</b>          | <b>Change Description</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023-05-11               | 1.5            | Eric Hao & Vladislav Boyko | Updated Page Frames       |
| 2023-05-10               | 1.4            | Eric Hao & Vladislav Boyko | Updated Page Frames       |
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