# **SQL DEFAULT Constraint**

**SQL DEFAULT Constraint:**

1. The DEFAULT constraint is used to set a default value for a column.
2. The default value will be added to all new records, if no other value is specified.

**SQL DEFAULT on CREATE TABLE**

1. The following SQL sets a DEFAULT value for the "City" column when the "Persons" table is created:  
   My SQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| CREATE TABLE Persons (  ID int NOT NULL,  LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  FirstName varchar(255),  Age int,  City varchar(255) DEFAULT 'Sandnes'  ); |

The DEFAULT constraint can also be used to insert system values, by using functions like GETDATE():

|  |
| --- |
| CREATE TABLE Orders (  ID int NOT NULL,  OrderNumber int NOT NULL,  OrderDate date DEFAULT GETDATE()  ); |

**SQL DEFAULT on ALTER TABLE**

1. To create a DEFAULT constraint on the "City" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:  
   MySQL:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ALTER City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes'; |

SQL Server:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ADD CONSTRAINT df\_City  DEFAULT 'Sandnes' FOR City; |

MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ALTER COLUMN City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes'; |

Oracle:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  MODIFY City DEFAULT 'Sandnes'; |

**DROP a DEFAULT Constraint**

1. To drop a DEFAULT constraint, use the following SQL:  
   MySQL:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ALTER City DROP DEFAULT; |

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ALTER COLUMN City DROP DEFAULT; |

SQL Server:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ALTER COLUMN City DROP DEFAULT; |