

IF EXISTS condition not working with PLSQL

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I am trying to print the TEXT when condition is TRUE. The select code is perfectly working fine. It's showing 403 value when i only run select code. But I have to print some text when condition exists. What's the problem with following code.

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```
BEGIN
IF EXISTS(
SELECT CE.S_REGNO FROM
COURSEOFFERING CO
JOIN CO_ENROLMENT CE
ON CE.CO_ID = CO.CO_ID
WHERE CE.S_REGNO=403 AND CE.COE_COMPLETIONSTATUS = 'C' AND CO.C_ID = 803
)
THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line('YES YOU CAN');
END;
```

Here is the error report:

```
Error report:
ORA-06550: line 5, column 1:
PLS-00103: Encountered the symbol "JOIN" when expecting one of the following:

    ) , with group having intersect minus start union where
connect
06550. 00000 - "line %s, column %s:\n%s"
*Cause:    Usually a PL/SQL compilation error.
*Action:
```

sql

oracle

if-statement

plsql

asked Nov 4 '12 at 10:01



nirmalgyanwali

191 1 2 14

2 Answers

IF EXISTS() is semantically incorrect. EXISTS condition can be used only inside a SQL statement. So you might rewrite your pl/sql block as follows:



```
declare
l_exst number(1);
begin
select case
        when exists(select ce.s_re
                      from courseo
                      join co_enro
                      on ce.co_i
```

```

        where ce.s_re
        and ce.coe_
        and ce.c_id
        and rownum
    )

    then 1
    else 0
end into l_exst
from dual;

if l_exst = 1
then
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line('YES YOU CAN')
else
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line('YOU CANNOT')
end if;
end;

```

Or you can simply use `count` function to determine the number of rows returned by the query, and `rownum=1` predicate - you only need to know if a record exists:

```

declare
    l_exst number;
begin
    select count(*)
    into l_exst
    from courseoffering co
    join co_enrolment ce
    on ce.co_id = co.co_id
    where ce.s_regno=403
    and ce.coe_completionstatus = '
    and ce.c_id = 803
    and rownum = 1;

    if l_exst = 0
    then
        DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line('YOU CANNOT')
    else
        DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line('YES YOU CAN')
    end if;
end;

```

edited Jul 15 '15 at 12:34

answered Nov 4 '12 at 10:55



Nick Krasnov

23.3k 4 47 66

Thank you Nicholas for your brilliant code. It perfectly work for me. — [nirmalgyanwali](#) Nov 4 '12 at 12:46

"simply use count function" is much less efficient. Stick with exists/not exists. — [miracle_the_V](#) Jul 15 '15 at 8:05

Why `exists` cannot be used in insert statements? — [zygimantus](#) Oct 21 '16 at 12:24

`exists` certainly can be used with insert statements. — [William Robertson](#) Mar 24 '17 at

15:12

5

loop



120k	15	118	230
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nirmalgyanwali Nov 4 '12 at 12:50

4 '12 at 13:27