

# Hands-on Lab : Basics of SQL SELECT Statement

Estimated time needed: 20 minutes

In this lab, you will learn one of the most commonly used statements of SQL (Structured Query Language), the SELECT statement. The SELECT statement is used to select data from a database.

## How does the syntax of a SELECT statement look?

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...
FROM table_name
WHERE condition
;
```

## What do the keywords / clauses of a SQL statement shown above do?

- **FROM**: Specifies from which table to get the data. The clause can include optional JOIN subclauses to specify the rules for joining tables.
- [Optional Clause] **WHERE** : Specifies which rows to retrieve.

## Why is there a semicolon after the SQL statements?

- Some database systems require a semicolon at the end of each SQL statement for execution. It is a standard way to separate one SQL statement from another which allows more than one SQL statement to be executed in the same call to the server. So, it is good practice to use a semicolon at the end of each SQL statement.

## Software Used in this Lab

In this lab, you will use [Datasette](#) , an open source multi-tool for exploring and publishing data.

## Database Used in this Lab

The database used in this lab comes from the following dataset source: [Film Locations in San Francisco](#) under a [PDDL: Public Domain Dedication and License](#).

## Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Query a database.
- Retrieve data records from one or more tables of a database as resultset according to the criteria you specify

## Task A: Exploring the Database

Let us first explore the **SanFranciscoFilmLocations** database using the **Datasette** tool:

1. If the first statement listed below is not already in the Datasette textbox on the right, then copy the code below by clicking on the little copy button on the bottom right of the codeblock below and then paste it into the textbox of the Datasette tool using either **Ctrl+V** or right-click in the text box and choose **Paste**.

```
SELECT * FROM FilmLocations;
```

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Practice SQL

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT \* FROM FilmLocations;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

2. Click **Submit Query**.

3. Now you can scroll down the table and explore all the columns and rows of the **FilmLocations** table to get an overall idea of the table contents.

ID#	ReleaseYear	Locations	FunFacts	ProductionCompany	Distributor	Director	Writer	Actor1	Actor2	Actor3
189	2011	San Francisco (SF) Embarcadero		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Mount & California Streets (North Hill)		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Jason Warner Plaza		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	200 Stock Market Street		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	City Hall		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Pink & Golden Streets		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Randall Museum		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter

4. These are the column attribute descriptions from the **FilmLocations** table:

```
FilmLocations(
Title:           titles of the films,
ReleaseYear:     time of public release of the films,
Locations:       locations of San Francisco where the films were shot,
FunFacts:        funny facts about the filming locations,
ProductionCompany: companies who produced the films,
Distributor:     companies who distributed the films,
Director:        people who directed the films,
Writer:          people who wrote the films,
Actor1:          person 1 who acted in the films,
Actor2:          person 2 who acted in the films,
Actor3:          person 3 who acted in the films
)
```

## Task B: Example exercises on SELECT statement

Now let us go through some examples of SELECT queries:

1. In this example, suppose we want to retrieve details of all the films from the "FilmLocations" table. The details of each film record should contain all the film columns.

1. Problem:

Retrieve all records with all columns from the "FilmLocations" table.

2. Solution:

```
SELECT * FROM FilmLocations;
```

3. Copy the solution code above by clicking on the little copy button on the bottom right of the codeblock below and paste it to the textbox of the Datasette tool. Then click **Submit query**.

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Practice SQL

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT \* FROM FilmLocations;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

4. Your output resultset should match like below:

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT \* FROM FilmLocations;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

Results

All commands ran successfully

SELECT \* FROM FilmLocations

ID#	ReleaseYear	Locations	FunFacts	ProductionCompany	Distributor	Director	Writer	Actor1	Actor2	Actor3
189	2011	San Francisco (SF) Embarcadero		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Mount & California Streets (North Hill)		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter
189	2011	Jason Warner Plaza		SP Company		JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John	Subaru	Willis	Peter

2. In this example, now we want to retrieve selective details of all the film records. Let us retrieve the names of all the films along with director names and writer names.

1. Problem:

Retrieve the names of all films with director names and writer names.

2. Solution:

```
SELECT Title, Director, Writer FROM FilmLocations;
```

3. Copy the solution code above by clicking on the little copy button on the bottom right of the codeblock below and paste it to the textbox of the Datasette tool. Then click **Submit query**.

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Practice SQL

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT Title, Director, Writer FROM FilmLocations;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

4. Your output resultset should match like below:

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT Title, Director, Writer FROM FilmLocations;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

Results

All commands ran successfully

SELECT Title, Director, Writer FROM FilmLocations

Title	Director	Writer
San Francisco (SF) Embarcadero	JaneDoe	James Cameron
Mount & California Streets (North Hill)	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John
Jason Warner Plaza	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John
200 Stock Market Street	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John
City Hall	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John
Pink & Golden Streets	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John
Randall Museum	JaneDoe	James Cameron, James Cameron, James Cameron, & John

3. In this example, we want to retrieve film names along with filming locations and release years. But we also want to restrict the output resultset so that we can retrieve only the film records released in 2001 and onwards (release years after 2001 including 2001).

1. Problem:

Retrieve the names of all films released in the 21st century and onwards (release years after 2001 including 2001), along with filming locations and release years.

2. Solution:

```
SELECT Title, ReleaseYear, Locations FROM FilmLocations WHERE ReleaseYear>=2001;
```

3. Copy the solution code above by clicking on the little copy button on the bottom right of the codeblock below and paste it to the textbox of the Datasette tool. Then click **Submit query**.

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Practice SQL

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT Title, ReleaseYear, Locations FROM FilmLocations WHERE ReleaseYear>=2001;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

4. Your output resultset should match like below:

Database: SanFranciscoFilmLocations

1 SELECT Title, ReleaseYear, Locations FROM FilmLocations WHERE ReleaseYear>=2001;

Tip: Autocomplete with Ctrl+Enter or Cmd+Enter

Submit query

Results

All commands ran successfully

SELECT Title, ReleaseYear, Locations FROM FilmLocations WHERE ReleaseYear>=2001

Title	ReleaseYear	Locations
San Francisco (SF) Embarcadero	2011	
Mount & California Streets (North Hill)	2011	
Jason Warner Plaza	2011	
200 Stock Market Street	2011	
City Hall	2011	
Pink & Golden Streets	2011	
Randall Museum	2011	
101 Market St	2011	
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