DML (Data Manipulation Language) commands in SQL are used to manage and manipulate data within database tables. These commands allow users to retrieve, insert, update, and delete data in the database. They are a subset of SQL commands focused on modifying the content of the database rather than its structure.

**Key DML Commands**

1. **SELECT**:
   * Retrieves data from one or more tables in the database.
   * Syntax:
   * SELECT column1, column2, ...
   * FROM table\_name
   * WHERE condition;
   * Example:
   * SELECT first\_name, last\_name
   * FROM employees
   * WHERE department = 'HR';
2. **INSERT**:
   * Adds new rows of data to a table.
   * Syntax:
   * INSERT INTO table\_name (column1, column2, ...)
   * VALUES (value1, value2, ...);
   * Example:
   * INSERT INTO employees (first\_name, last\_name, department)
   * VALUES ('John', 'Doe', 'Finance');
3. **UPDATE**:
   * Modifies existing data in a table.
   * Syntax:
   * UPDATE table\_name
   * SET column1 = value1, column2 = value2, ...
   * WHERE condition;
   * Example:
   * UPDATE employees
   * SET department = 'IT'
   * WHERE last\_name = 'Smith';
4. **DELETE**:
   * Removes rows of data from a table.
   * Syntax:
   * DELETE FROM table\_name
   * WHERE condition;
   * Example:
   * DELETE FROM employees
   * WHERE department = 'Sales';

**Characteristics of DML Commands**

* **Transactional**: These commands are transactional, meaning they can be rolled back or committed.
* **Non-structural**: DML commands do not modify the schema or structure of the database (those are handled by DDL commands).
* **Conditional Execution**: Most DML commands can include conditions (e.g., WHERE clause) to specify which rows are affected.

**Use Cases**

* Retrieving specific data for reporting or analysis.
* Adding new records to a database.
* Modifying records to reflect updated information.
* Deleting outdated or irrelevant records.

By using DML commands, users can interact with the data stored in a database effectively.