

MySQL Style Guide

General Guidelines

- **Use table aliases sparingly** and only when absolutely necessary (a few extra keystrokes now will save you hours of gazing at cryptic queries later)
- **CAPITALIZE** keywords religiously
- **Whitespace** and **tabs** are your friends

Simple Queries

For simple queries, put each clause on its own line:

```
SELECT products.id, SUM(inventory.price)
FROM products
JOIN inventory ON products.id = inventory.id
WHERE products.name = 'something'
GROUP BY products.id
HAVING SUM(inventory.price) > 0
ORDER BY products.name ASC
LIMIT 50;
```

For very short queries, a one-liner will do:

```
SELECT products.* FROM products ORDER BY products.name ASC
```

Complex Queries

Queries with more than two or three clauses or with long lists of columns or expressions warrant a more developed syntax structure:

```
SELECT
products.id,
products.name,
AVG(inventory.price),
SUM(inventory.stock) AS stock_level,
```

```
MAX(shipments.eta)

FROM products
JOIN inventory ON products.id = inventory.id
JOIN shipments ON inventory.shipment = shipments.id

WHERE
products.name = 'something'
AND shipments.delivered = 0

GROUP BY products.id
ORDER BY products.name ASC

LIMIT 50;
```

Note the whitespace and indentation. This format is incredibly effective for large or complex queries, especially INSERTs, UPDATEs, and REPLACEs.

Subqueries

Use indentation to set off subqueries:

```
SELECT products.id, products.name
FROM products
WHERE products.id IN(
  SELECT DISTINCT product
  FROM orders
  WHERE status = 'pending'
)
ORDER BY products.name ASC
LIMIT 50;
```

UNIONS

Clearly separate queries in a UNION:

```
SELECT id, name
FROM business_customers
WHERE time_stamp > '2009-05-21'

UNION

SELECT id, CONCAT('fname', ' ', 'lname') AS name
FROM consumer_customers
WHERE time_stamp > '2009-05-21'
```

Advanced Queries

Advanced queries can be constructed like so. Use indentation and whitespace where it makes sense, and in simpler queries put each clause on its own line:

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE 'tmp_235kd235s1' AS
SELECT id, CONCAT('fname', ' ', 'lname') AS name
FROM consumer_customers
ORDER BY RAND()
LIMIT 500
```
