# Alter vs. Update

### Part 1

\* Explain the difference between `alter` and `update` in SQL statements.

**Student Response**

**ALTER:**

The ALTER TABLE statement is used to add, delete, or modify columns in an existing table. The ALTER TABLE statement is also used to add and drop various constraints on an existing table.

**UPDATE:**

The UPDATE statement is used to modify the existing records in a table.

### Part 2

\* You are given the following table:

![Images/alter\_update01.png](Images/alter\_update01.png)

\* Change the name of the column from `department\_id` to `dept\_id`.

**UPDATE [table\_name]**

**SET `department\_id` = `dept\_id`;**

\* Add a column named `annual\_salary` to the table.

**ALTER TABLE [table\_name]**

**ADD ‘annual salary’ VARCHAR(30);**

\* \_You can use pgAdmin and create a new table to test out this activity\_

\* \_Save your completed SQL file in this folder.\_