|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Sections & Description** |
| 1 | **Declarations**  This section starts with the keyword **DECLARE**. It is an optional section and defines all variables, cursors, subprograms, and other elements to be used in the program. |
| 2 | **Executable Commands**  This section is enclosed between the keywords **BEGIN** and **END** and it is a mandatory section. It consists of the executable PL/SQL statements of the program. It should have at least one executable line of code, which may be just a **NULL command** to indicate that nothing should be executed. |
| 3 | **Exception Handling**  This section starts with the keyword **EXCEPTION**. This optional section contains **exception(s)** that handle errors in the program. |

Pl SQL BASIC syntax

DECLARE

<declarations section>

BEGIN

<executable command(s)>

EXCEPTION

<exception handling>

END;

The PL/SQL Identifiers

PL/SQL identifiers are constants, variables, exceptions, procedures, cursors, and reserved words. The identifiers consist of a letter optionally followed by more letters, numerals, dollar signs, underscores, and number signs and should not exceed 30 characters.

By default, **identifiers are not case-sensitive**. So you can use **integer** or **INTEGER** to represent a numeric value. You cannot use a reserved keyword as an identifier.

The PL/SQL Delimiters

A delimiter is a symbol with a special meaning. Following is the list of delimiters in PL/SQL −

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Delimiter** | **Description** |
| **+, -, \*, /** | Addition, subtraction/negation, multiplication, division |
| **%** | Attribute indicator |
| **'** | Character string delimiter |
| **.** | Component selector |
| **(,)** | Expression or list delimiter |
| **:** | Host variable indicator |
| **,** | Item separator |
| **"** | Quoted identifier delimiter |
| **=** | Relational operator |
| **@** | Remote access indicator |
| **;** | Statement terminator |
| **:=** | Assignment operator |
| **=>** | Association operator |
| **||** | Concatenation operator |
| **\*\*** | Exponentiation operator |

## The PL/SQL Comments

Program comments are explanatory statements that can be included in the PL/SQL code that you write and helps anyone reading its source code. All programming languages allow some form of comments.

The PL/SQL supports single-line and multi-line comments. All characters available inside any comment are ignored by the PL/SQL compiler. The PL/SQL single-line comments start with the delimiter -- (double hyphen) and multi-line comments are enclosed by /\* and \*/.

DECLARE

-- variable declaration

message varchar2(20):= 'Hello, World!';

BEGIN

/\*

\* PL/SQL executable statement(s)

\*/

dbms\_output.put\_line(message);

END;

/