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SQL ALTER TABLE Statement

In this tutorial, we'll learn to change table structure with the help of examples.

We can change the structure of a table using the `ALTER TABLE` command. We can

- Add a column
- Rename a column
- Modify a column
- Delete a column
- Rename a table

Add Column in a Table

We can add columns in a table using the `ALTER TABLE` command with the `ADD` clause. For example,

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
ADD phone VARCHAR(10);
```

Here, the SQL command adds a column named `phone` in the `Customers` table.

Add Multiple Columns in a Table

We can also add multiple columns at once in a table. For example,

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
ADD phone VARCHAR(10), age INT;
```

Here, the SQL command adds the `phone` and `age` column in the `Customers` table.

Rename Column in a Table

We can rename columns in a table using the `ALTER TABLE` command with the `RENAME COLUMN` clause. For example,

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
RENAME COLUMN customer_id TO c_id;
```

Here, the SQL command changes the column name of `customer_id` to `c_id` in the `Customers` table.

Modify Column in a Table

We can also change the column's data type using the `ALTER TABLE` command with `MODIFY` or `ALTER COLUMN` clause. For example,

SQL Server

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
ALTER COLUMN age VARCHAR(2);
```

MySQL

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
MODIFY COLUMN age VARCHAR(2);
```

Oracle

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
MODIFY age VARCHAR(2);
```

PostgreSQL

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
ALTER COLUMN age TYPE VARCHAR(2);
```

Here, the SQL command changes the data type of the `age` column to `VARCHAR` in the `Customers` table.

Drop Column in a Table

We can also drop (remove) columns in a table using the `ALTER TABLE` command with the `DROP` clause. For example,

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
DROP COLUMN age;
```

Here, the SQL command removes the `phone` column from the `Customers` table.

Rename a Table

We can change the name of a table using the `ALTER TABLE` command with the `RENAME` clause. For example,

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
RENAME TO newCustomers;
```

Here, the SQL command renames the `Customers` table to `newCustomers`.

Previous Tutorial:
[SQL Drop Table](#)

Next Tutorial:
[SQL Backup Database](#)

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