

## Oracle/PLSQL: Retrieve Top N records from a query

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**Question:** How can I retrieve the Top N records from a query?

For example, what if I wanted to retrieve the first 3 records from my query results. How can I do this?

**Answer:** To retrieve the Top N records from a query, you can use the following syntax:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (your ordered query) alias_name  
WHERE rownum <= Rows_to_return  
ORDER BY rownum;
```

For example, if you wanted to retrieve the first 3 records from the suppliers table, sorted by supplier\_name in ascending order, you would run the following query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (select * from suppliers ORDER BY supplier_name) suppliers2  
WHERE rownum <= 3  
ORDER BY rownum;
```

If you wanted to retrieve the first 3 records from the suppliers table, sorted by supplier\_name in descending order, you would run the following query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (select * from suppliers ORDER BY supplier_name DESC) suppliers2  
WHERE rownum <= 3  
ORDER BY rownum;
```

If you wanted to retrieve the first 5 records from the suppliers table, sorted by supplier\_id in ascending order, you would run the following query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (select * from suppliers ORDER BY supplier_id) suppliers2  
WHERE rownum <= 5  
ORDER BY rownum;
```

If you wanted to retrieve the first 5 records from the suppliers table, sorted by supplier\_id in descending order, you would run the following query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (select * from suppliers ORDER BY supplier_id DESC) suppliers2  
WHERE rownum <= 5  
ORDER BY rownum;
```