

## Simplified Query Language Syntax

This section briefly describes the syntax of the query language so that you can quickly move on to [Example Queries](#). When you are ready to learn about the syntax in more detail, see [Full Query Language Syntax](#).

### Select Statements

A select query has six clauses: `SELECT`, `FROM`, `WHERE`, `GROUP BY`, `HAVING`, and `ORDER BY`.

The `SELECT` and `FROM` clauses are required, but the `WHERE`, `GROUP BY`, `HAVING`, and `ORDER BY` clauses are optional. Here is the high-level BNF syntax of a query language select query:

```
QL_statement ::= select_clause from_clause
               [where_clause] [groupby_clause] [having_clause] [orderby_clause]
```

- The `SELECT` clause defines the types of the objects or values returned by the query.
- The `FROM` clause defines the scope of the query by declaring one or more identification variables, which can be referenced in the `SELECT` and `WHERE` clauses. An identification variable represents one of the following elements:
  - The abstract schema name of an entity
  - An element of a collection relationship
  - An element of a single-valued relationship
  - A member of a collection that is the multiple side of a one-to-many relationship
- The `WHERE` clause is a conditional expression that restricts the objects or values retrieved by the query. Although the clause is optional, most queries have a `WHERE` clause.
- The `GROUP BY` clause groups query results according to a set of properties.
- The `HAVING` clause is used with the `GROUP BY` clause to further restrict the query results according to a conditional expression.
- The `ORDER BY` clause sorts the objects or values returned by the query into a specified order.

### Update and Delete Statements

Update and delete statements provide bulk operations over sets of entities. These statements have the following syntax:

```
update_statement ::= update_clause [where_clause]
delete_statement ::= delete_clause [where_clause]
```

The update and delete clauses determine the type of the entities to be updated or deleted. The `WHERE` clause may be used to restrict the scope of the update or delete operation.