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SQL INSERT INTO Statement

Previous

Next >

The SQL INSERT INTO Statement

The INSERT INTO statement is used to insert new records in a table.

INSERT INTO Syntax

It is possible to write the INSERT INTO statement in two ways.

The first way specifies both the column names and the values to be inserted:

```
INSERT INTO table_name (column1, column2, column3, ...)
VALUES (value1, value2, value3, ...);
```

If you are adding values for all the columns of the table, you do not need to specify the column names in the SQL query. However, make sure the order of the values is in the same order as the columns in the table. The INSERT INTO syntax would be as follows:

```
INSERT INTO table_name
VALUES (value1, value2, value3, ...);
```

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode
89	White Clover Markets	Karl Jablonski	305 - 14th Ave. S. Suite 3B	Seattle	98128
90	Wilman Kala	Matti Karttunen	Keskuskatu 45	Helsinki	21240
91	Wolski	Zbyszek	ul. Filtrowa 68	Walla	01-012
4					•

INSERT INTO Example

The following SQL statement inserts a new record in the "Customers" table:

```
INSERT INTO Customers (CustomerName, ContactName, Address, City,
PostalCode, Country)
VALUES ('Cardinal', 'Tom B. Erichsen', 'Skagen 21', 'Stavanger',
'4006', 'Norway');
Try it Yourself »
```

The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCoc
89	White Clover Markets	Karl Jablonski	305 - 14th Ave. S.	Seattle	98128

			Suite 3B		
90	Wilman Kala	Matti Karttunen	Keskuskatu 45	Helsinki	21240
91	Wolski	Zbyszek	ul. Filtrowa 68	Walla	01-012
92	Cardinal	Tom B. Erichsen	Skagen 21	Stavanger	4006

Did you notice that we did not insert any number into the CustomerID field?

The CustomerID column is an <u>auto-increment</u> field and will be generated automatically when a new record is inserted into the table.

Insert Data Only in Specified Columns

It is also possible to only insert data in specific columns.

The following SQL statement will insert a new record, but only insert data in the "CustomerName", "City", and "Country" columns (CustomerID will be updated automatically):

```
INSERT INTO Customers (CustomerName, City, Country)
VALUES ('Cardinal', 'Stavanger', 'Norway');
Try it Yourself »
```

The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCoc
89	White Clover Markets	Karl Jablonski	305 - 14th Ave. S. Suite 3B	Seattle	98128
90	Wilman Kala	Matti Karttunen	Keskuskatu 45	Helsinki	21240

91	Wolski	Zbyszek	ul. Filtrowa 68	Walla	01-012
92	Cardinal	null	null	Stavanger	null
4					>
Previous					Next >

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