w3schools.com

☰   🏠   HTML   CSS   MORE ▾   🔍

SQL LIKE Operator

❮ Previous   Next ❯

The SQL LIKE Operator

The LIKE operator is used in a WHERE clause to search for a specified pattern in a column.

There are two wildcards used in conjunction with the LIKE operator:

- % - The percent sign represents zero, one, or multiple characters
- _ - The underscore represents a single character

Note: MS Access uses a question mark (?) instead of the underscore (_).

The percent sign and the underscore can also be used in combinations!

LIKE Syntax

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...
FROM table_name
WHERE columnN LIKE pattern;
```

Tip: You can also combine any number of conditions using AND or OR operators.

Here are some examples showing different LIKE operators with '%' and '_' wildcards:

LIKE Operator	Description
WHERE CustomerName LIKE 'a%'	Finds any values that starts with "a"
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '%a'	Finds any values that ends with "a"
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '%or%'	Finds any values that have "or" in any position
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '_r%'	Finds any values that have "r" in the second position
WHERE CustomerName LIKE 'a_%_%'	Finds any values that starts with "a" and are at least 3 characters in length
WHERE ContactName LIKE 'a%o'	Finds any values that starts with "a" and ends with "o"

Demo Database

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

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCod
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22

SQL LIKE Examples

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName starting with "a":

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName LIKE 'a%';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName ending with "a":

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '%a';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName that have "or" in any position:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '%or%';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName that have "r" in the second position:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName LIKE '_r%';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName that starts with "a" and are at least 3 characters in length:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName LIKE 'a_%_%';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a ContactName that starts with "a" and ends with "o":

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE ContactName LIKE 'a%o';
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement selects all customers with a CustomerName that does NOT start with "a":

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerName NOT LIKE 'a%';
```

Try it Yourself »

❮ Previous   Next ❯

COLOR PICKER

HOW TO

Tabs
Dropdowns

Accordions
Convert Weights
Animated Buttons
Side Navigation
Top Navigation
Modal Boxes
Progress Bars
Parallax
Login Form
HTML Includes
Google Maps
Range Sliders
Tooltips
Slideshow
Filter List
Sort List

SHARE

CERTIFICATES

HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, jQuery, Bootstrap and XML.

Read More »

REPORT ERROR

Top 10 Tutorials

HTML Tutorial
CSS Tutorial
JavaScript Tutorial
W3.CSS Tutorial
Bootstrap Tutorial
SQL Tutorial
PHP Tutorial
jQuery Tutorial
Angular Tutorial
How To Tutorial

Top 10 References

HTML Reference
CSS Reference
JavaScript Reference
W3.CSS Reference
Bootstrap Reference
SQL Reference
PHP Reference
HTML Colors
jQuery Reference
AngularJS Reference

Top 10 Examples

HTML Examples
CSS Examples
JavaScript Examples
W3.CSS Examples
Bootstrap Examples
HTML DOM Examples
PHP Examples
jQuery Examples
Angular Examples
XML Examples

Web Certificates

HTML Certificate
CSS Certificate
JavaScript Certificate
jQuery Certificate
PHP Certificate
Bootstrap Certificate
XML Certificate

W3Schools is optimized for learning, testing, and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and basic understanding. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot