

# MySQL - Sorting the results

The SQL **ORDER BY** clause is used to sort the data in ascending or descending order, based on one or more columns. By default, some databases sort the query results in an ascending order.

## Syntax :

The basic syntax of the **ORDER BY** clause which would be used to sort the result in an ascending or descending order is as follows –

```
SELECT column-list
```

```
FROM table_name
```

```
[WHERE condition]
```

```
[ORDER BY column1, column2, .. columnN] [ASC | DESC];
```

## ORDER BY Clause with ASC

We can sort the result-set of a query in ascending order (based on one or more columns) using the **SQL ORDER BY** clause by specifying **ASC** as the sort order. ASC is the default sort order for this clause, i.e. while using the ORDER BY clause if you do not explicitly specify the sort order, the data will be sorted in ascending order.

Example:

```
SELECT * FROM customers ORDER BY name ASC;
```

## ORDER BY Clause with DESC

To sort the result-set of a query in descending order (based on one or more columns), we need to use the **ORDER BY** clause by specifying **DESC** as the sort order.

Example:

```
SELECT * FROM customers ORDER BY name DESC;
```

## ORDER BY with WHERE Clause

We can also use the **WHERE** clause with the **ORDER BY** clause to sort the rows that meet certain conditions. This can be useful when we want to sort a subset of the data in a table based on the specific criteria.

Example:

```
SELECT * FROM customers
WHERE age = 25 ORDER BY name DESC;
```

## Sorting Results in a Preferred Order

One can also sort the records of a table in their own preferred order using the **CASE** statement within the **ORDER BY** clause. All the values are specified in the clause along with the position they are supposed to be sorted in; if the values are not given any number, they are automatically sorted in ascending order.

Example:

```
SELECT * FROM customers
ORDER BY (
CASE Address
  WHEN 'MUMBAI' THEN 1
  WHEN 'DELHI' THEN 2
  WHEN 'HYDERABAD' THEN 3
  WHEN 'AHMEDABAD' THEN 4
  WHEN 'INDORE' THEN 5
  WHEN 'BHOPAL' THEN 6
  WHEN 'KOTA' THEN 7
  ELSE 100 END
);
```