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In this video we provide an overview of select statements.
You have seen that from an ERD we derive a table
and use create table statement to define different columns.
We use insert statement to insert data rows into the tables.
The main purpose of a database management
system is not just to store the data,
but also facilitate retrieval of the same.
So now, how do we see the data that we have stored in a table?
That’s when select statements come into picture.
A select statement in its simplest form is
select * from <tablename>”
Here the select statement is termed as the query
and the output we get from executing this query is
called a result set or a result table.
Let us take table book for our example here.
select * from book” when executed from the command prompt
would give out the result set like this.
You can also use IBM Data Studio
for executing these select statements.
For better viewing, we have
used the command prompt outputs.
Make a note that this is not the exact output
for this particular query since we have truncated
the result set for display purpose.
* here refers to all the columns that are there in the table.
As you can see, all the data rows for all the columns
that are in the table book are displayed.
We can retrieve data for all the columns by
specifying the column names individually in our select statement too.
Here is an example of that.
The result set is same as our previous example
but we are using the column names here.
Relational databases allow retrieving
a subset of columns from a table.
In this example, we are retrieving data from just
two columns book_id and title from the table book.
select book_id, title from book
Let's see what happens if the order of the columns
are interchanged as in this example.
Select title, book_id from book.
As you can see in the result set,

order of the columns will always
match the order that is passed to the select statement.
Order as defined in the create table statement is ignored.