

11ED Glossary

Chapter 7

alias	An alternative name for a column or table in a SQL statement.
ALTER TABLE	The SQL command used to make changes to table structure. When the command is followed by a keyword, it adds a column or changes column characteristics.
AND	The SQL logical operator used to link multiple conditional expressions in a WHERE or HAVING clause. It requires that all conditional expressions evaluate to true.
authentication	The process through which a DBMS verifies that only registered users can access the database.
AVG	A SQL aggregate function that outputs the mean average for a specified column or expression.
BETWEEN	In SQL, a special comparison operator used to check whether a value is within a range of specified values.
Boolean algebra	A branch of mathematics that uses the logical operators OR, AND, and NOT.
cascading order sequence	A nested ordering sequence for a set of rows, such as a list in which all last names are alphabetically ordered and, within the last names, all first names are ordered.
COMMIT	The SQL command that permanently saves data changes to a database.
COUNT	A SQL aggregate function that outputs the number of rows containing not null values for a given column or expression, sometimes used in conjunction with the DISTINCT clause.
CREATE INDEX	A SQL command that creates indexes on the basis of a selected attribute or attributes.
CREATE TABLE	A SQL command that creates a table's structures using the characteristics and attributes given.
DELETE	A SQL command that allows data rows to be deleted from a table.
DISTINCT	A SQL clause that produces only a list of values that are different from one another.
DROP	A SQL command used to delete database objects such as tables, views, indexes, and users.
DROP INDEX	Permanently deletes an index
DROP TABLE	Permanently deletes a table
DROP VIEW	Permanently deletes a view
EXISTS	In SQL, a comparison operator that checks whether a subquery returns any rows.
GROUP BY	A SQL clause used to create frequency distributions when combined with any of the aggregate functions in a SELECT statement.
HAVING	A clause applied to the output of a GROUP BY operation to restrict selected rows.
IN	In SQL, a comparison operator used to check whether a value is among a list of specified values.
inner query	A query that is embedded or nested inside another query. Also known as a nested query or a subquery.
INSERT	A SQL command that allows the insertion of one or more data rows into a table using a subquery.
IS NULL	In SQL, a comparison operator used to check whether an attribute has a value.
LIKE	In SQL, a comparison operator used to check whether an attribute's text value matches a specified string pattern.

MAX	A SQL aggregate function that yields the maximum attribute value in a given column.
MIN	A SQL aggregate function that yields the minimum attribute value in a given column.
nested query	In SQL, a query that is embedded in another query.
NOT	A SQL logical operator that negates a given predicate.
OR	The SQL logical operator used to link multiple conditional expressions in a WHERE or HAVING clause. It requires only one of the conditional expressions to be true.
ORDER BY	A SQL clause that is useful for ordering the output of a SELECT query.
recursive query	A nested query that joins a table to itself.
reserved words	Words used by a system that cannot be used for any other purpose. For example, in Oracle SQL, the word INITIAL cannot be used to name tables or columns.
ROLLBACK	A SQL command that restores the database table contents to the condition that existed after the last COMMIT statement.
rules of precedence	Basic algebraic rules that specify the order in which operations are performed.
schema	A logical grouping of database objects, such as tables, indexes, views, and queries, that are related to each other. Usually, a schema belongs to a single user or application.
SELECT	A SQL command that yields the values of all rows or a subset of rows in a table. The SELECT statement is used to retrieve data from tables.
subquery	A query that is embedded inside another query.
SUM	A SQL aggregate function that yields the sum of all values for a given column or expression.
UPDATE	A SQL command that allows attribute values to be changed in one or more rows of a table.
WHERE	A SQL clause that adds conditional restrictions to a SELECT statement that limit the rows returned to the query.
wildcard character	A symbol that can be used as a general substitute for one or more characters in a SQL LIKE clause condition. The wildcard characters used in SQL are the _ and % symbols.