In this video we will discuss, **how to set an item selected when an asp.net mvc dropdownlist options are loaded from a database table**. [Please watch Part 34](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2013/06/part-34-generating-dropdownlist-control.html)before proceeding.  
  
To have the **"IT"** department selected, when the departments are loaded from **tblDepartment** table, use the following overloaded constructor of **"SelectList"** class. Notice that we are passing a value of **"1"** for "selectedValue" parameter.  
ViewBag.Departments = new SelectList(db.Departments, "Id", "Name", "1");

If you run the application at this point, **"IT"** department will be selected, when the dropdownlist is rendered. The downside of hard-coding the **"selectedValue"** in code is that, application code needs to be modified, if we want "HR" department to be selected instead of "IT". **So every time there is a change in requirement, we need to change the application code.**

Let's now discuss, the steps required to drive the selection of an item in the dropdownlist using a column in **tblDepartment**table.  
**Step 1**: Add **"IsSelected"** bit column to tblDepartment table  
ALTER TABLE tblDepartment  
ADD IsSelected BIT  
  
**Step 2:** At this point, this column will be null for all the rows in **tblDepartment**table. If we want **IT** department to be selected by default when the dropdownlist is loaded, set **"IsSelected=1"** for the **"IT"** department row.  
Update tblDepartment Set IsSelected = 1 Where Id = 2  
  
**Step 3:** Refresh ADO.NET Entity Data Model  
  
**Step 4:** Finally, make the following changes to the **"Index()"** action method in **"HomeController"** class.  
public ActionResult Index()  
{  
    SampleDBContext db = new SampleDBContext();  
    List<SelectListItem> selectListItems = new List<SelectListItem>();  
  
    foreach (Department department in db.Departments)  
    {  
        SelectListItem selectListItem = new SelectListItem  
        {  
            Text = department.Name,  
            Value = department.Id.ToString(),  
            Selected = department.IsSelected.HasValue ? department.IsSelected.Value : false  
        };  
        selectListItems.Add(selectListItem);  
    }  
  
    ViewBag.Departments = selectListItems;  
    return View();  
}  
  
Run the application and notice that, **"IT"** department is selected, when the dropdownlist is loaded.   
  
If you now want **"HR"** department to be selected, instead of **"IT"**, set **"IsSelected=1"**for **"HR"** department and **"IsSelected=0"** for **"IT"** department.

Update tblDepartment Set IsSelected = 1 Where Id = 2  
Update tblDepartment Set IsSelected = 0 Where Id = 1