**Suggested Videos**  
[Part 62 - What to choose for performance - SubQuery or Joins](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2013/01/what-to-choose-for-performance.html)  
[Part 63 - Cursors in sql server](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2013/01/cursors-in-sql-server-part-63.html)   
[Part 64 - Replacing cursors using joins in sql server](http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com/2013/01/replacing-cursors-using-joins-in-sql.html)  
  
In this video we will discuss, writing a **transact sql query to list all the tables in a sql server database**. This is a very common sql server interview question.   
  
   
  
**Object explorer** with in sql server management studio can be used to get the list of tables in a specific database. However, if we have to write a query to achieve the same, there are 3 system views that we can use.  
**1.** **SYSOBJECTS** - Supported in SQL Server version 2000, 2005 & 2008  
**2.** **SYS.TABLES** - Supported in SQL Server version 2005 & 2008  
**3.** **INFORMATION\_SCHEMA.TABLES** - Supported in SQL Server version 2005 & 2008  
  
   
  
-- Gets the list of tables only  
Select \* from SYSOBJECTS where XTYPE='U'  
-- Gets the list of tables only  
Select \* from  SYS.TABLES  
-- Gets the list of tables and views  
Select \* from INFORMATION\_SCHEMA.TABLES  
  
**To get the list of different object types (XTYPE) in a database**  
Select Distinct XTYPE from SYSOBJECTS  
  
Executing the above query on my SAMPLE database returned the following values for XTYPE column from SYSOBJECTS  
**IT** - Internal table  
**P** - Stored procedure  
**PK** - PRIMARY KEY constraint  
**S** - System table   
**SQ** - Service queue  
**U** - User table  
**V** - View  
  
Please check the following MSDN link for all possible XTYPE column values and what they represent.  
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177596.aspx>