In this video we will discuss the power and use of **SELECT INTO statement in SQL Server**.    
  
   
  
We will be using the following 2 tables for the examples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| departments table | employees table |

**SQL Script to create Departments and Employees tables**

Create table Departments

(

    DepartmentId int primary key,

    DepartmentName nvarchar(50)

)

Go

Insert into Departments values (1, 'IT')

Insert into Departments values (2, 'HR')

Insert into Departments values (3, 'Payroll')

Go

Create table Employees

(

    Id int primary key,

    Name nvarchar(100),

    Gender nvarchar(10),

    Salary int,

    DeptId int foreign key references Departments(DepartmentId)

)

Go

Insert into Employees values (1, 'Mark', 'Male', 50000, 1)

Insert into Employees values (2, 'Sara', 'Female', 65000, 2)

Insert into Employees values (3, 'Mike', 'Male', 48000, 3)

Insert into Employees values (4, 'Pam', 'Female', 70000, 1)

Insert into Employees values (5, 'John', 'Male', 55000, 2)

Go

The **SELECT INTO statement in SQL Server**, selects data from one table and inserts it into a new table.   
  
**SELECT INTO statement in SQL Server can do the following**  
1. Copy all rows and columns from an existing table into a new table. This is extremely useful when you want to make a backup copy of the existing table.

SELECT \* INTO EmployeesBackup FROM Employees

2. Copy all rows and columns from an existing table into a new table in an external database.

SELECT \* INTO HRDB.dbo.EmployeesBackup FROM Employees

3. Copy only selected columns into a new table

SELECT Id, Name, Gender INTO EmployeesBackup FROM Employees

4. Copy only selected rows into a new table

SELECT \* INTO EmployeesBackup FROM Employees WHERE DeptId = 1

5. Copy columns from 2 or more table into a new table

SELECT \* INTO EmployeesBackup

FROM Employees

INNER JOIN Departments

ON Employees.DeptId = Departments.DepartmentId

6. Create a new table whose columns and datatypes match with an existing table.

SELECT \* INTO EmployeesBackup FROM Employees WHERE 1 <> 1

7. Copy all rows and columns from an existing table into a new table on a different SQL Server instance. For this, create a linked server and use the 4 part naming convention

SELECT \* INTO TargetTable

FROM [SourceServer].[SourceDB].[dbo].[SourceTable]

**Please note :** You cannot use SELECT INTO statement to select data into an existing table. For this you will have to use INSERT INTO statement. 

INSERT INTO ExistingTable (ColumnList)

SELECT ColumnList FROM SourceTable