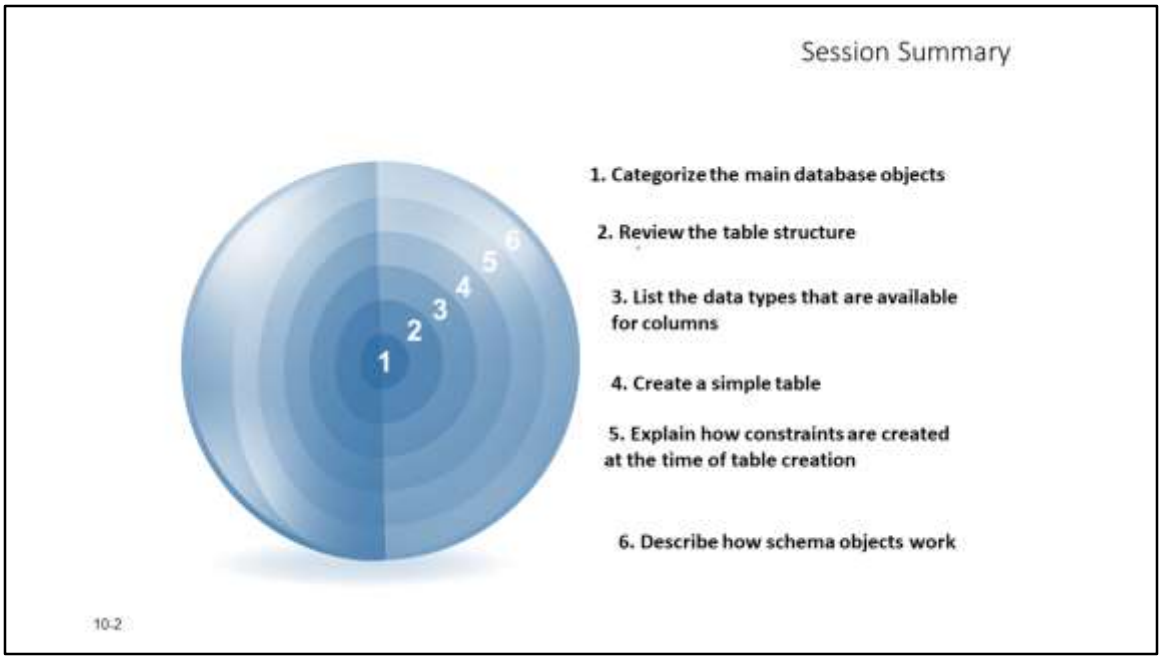
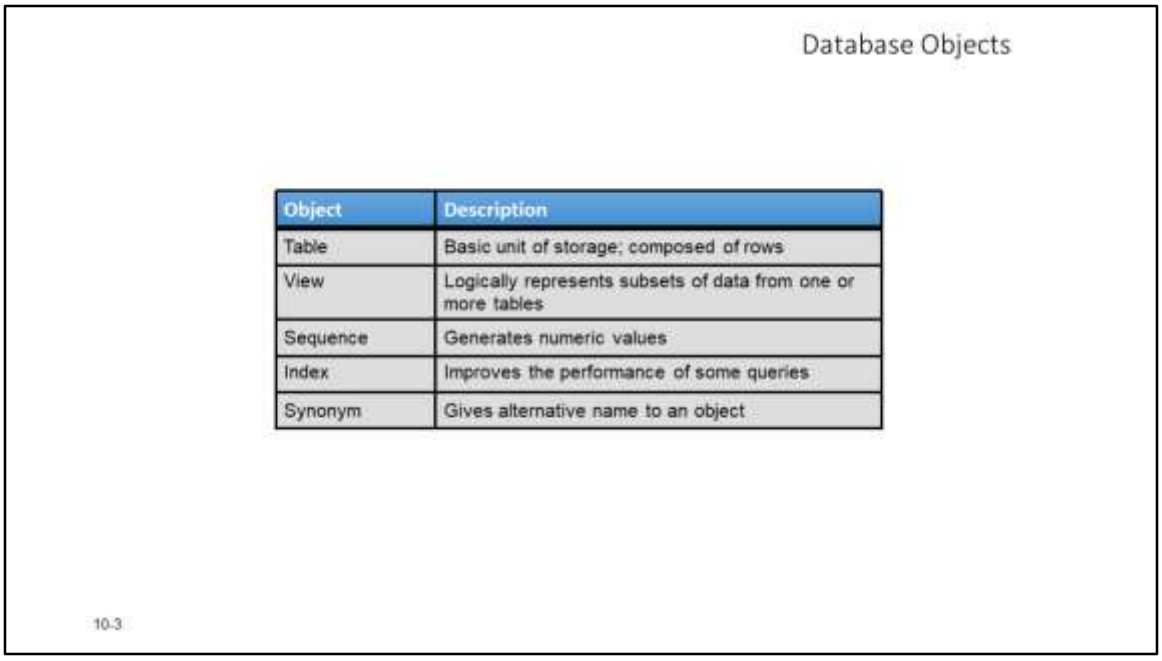
Lesson 10

Using DDL Statements to Create and Manage Tables



Session Summary

In this lesson, you are introduced to the data definition language (DDL) statements. You learn the basics of how to create simple tables, alter them, and remove them. The data types available in DDL are shown and schema concepts are introduced. Constraints are discussed in this lesson. Exception messages that are generated from violating constraints during DML operations are shown and explained.



Database Objects

The Oracle Database can contain multiple data structures. Each structure should be outlined in the database design so that it can be created during the build stage of database development.

Table: Stores data

View: Subset of data from one or more tables

Sequence: Generates numeric values

Index: Improves the performance of some queries

Synonym: Gives alternative name to an object

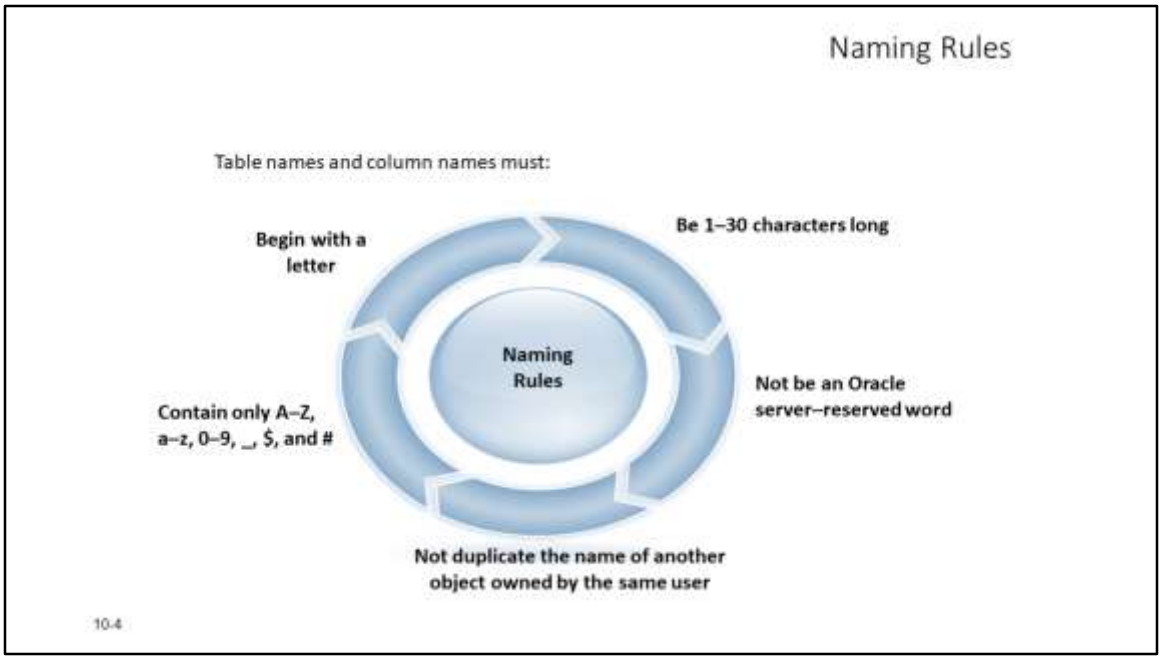
Oracle Table Structures

Tables can be created at any time, even when users are using the database.

You do not need to specify the size of a table. The size is ultimately defined by the amount of space allocated to the database as a whole. It is important, however, to estimate how much space a table will use over time.

Table structure can be modified online.

Note: More database objects are available, but are not covered in this course.



Naming Rules

You name database tables and columns according to the standard rules for naming any Oracle database object:

Table names and column names must begin with a letter and be 1–30 characters long.

Names must contain only the characters A–Z, a–z, 0–9, _ (underscore), $, and # (legal characters, but their use is discouraged).

Names must not duplicate the name of another object owned by the same Oracle server user.

Names must not be an Oracle server–reserved word.

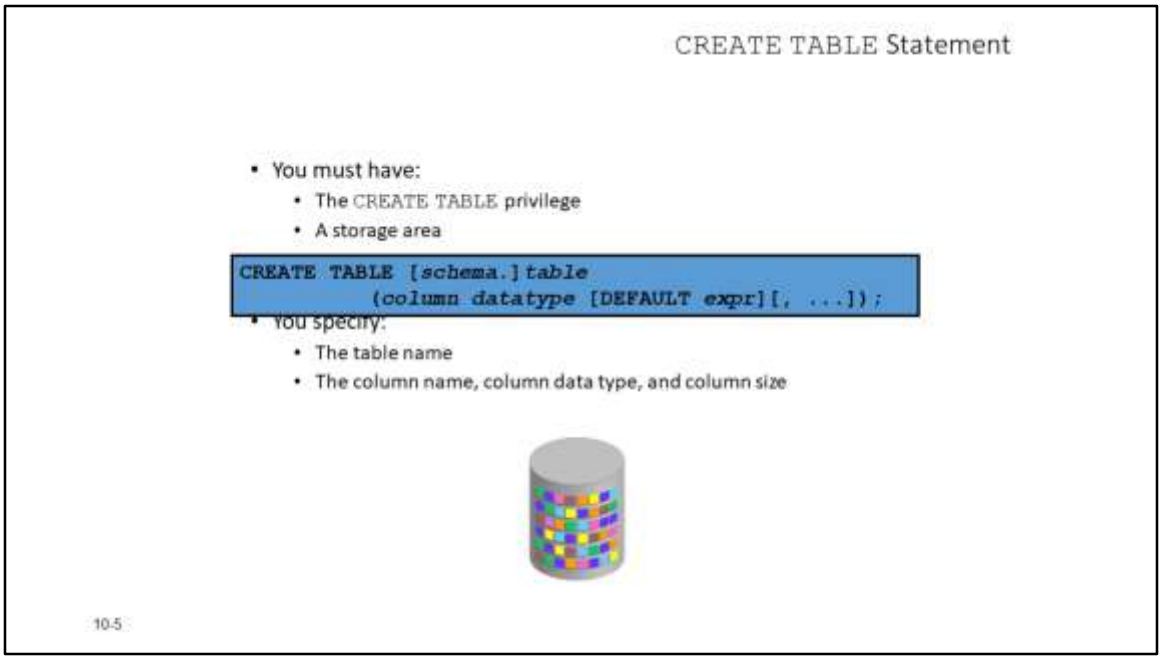
You may also use quoted identifiers to represent the name of an object. A quoted identifier begins and ends with double quotation marks (“”). If you name a schema object using a quoted identifier, you must use the double quotation marks whenever you refer to that object. Quoted identifiers can be reserved words, although this is not recommended.

Naming Guidelines

Use descriptive names for tables and other database objects.

Note: Names are not case-sensitive. For example, `EMPLOYEES` is treated to be the same name as `eMPloyees` or `eMpLOYEES`. However, quoted identifiers are case-sensitive.

For more information, see the “Schema Object Names and Qualifiers” section in the *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference* for 10*g* or 11*g* database.



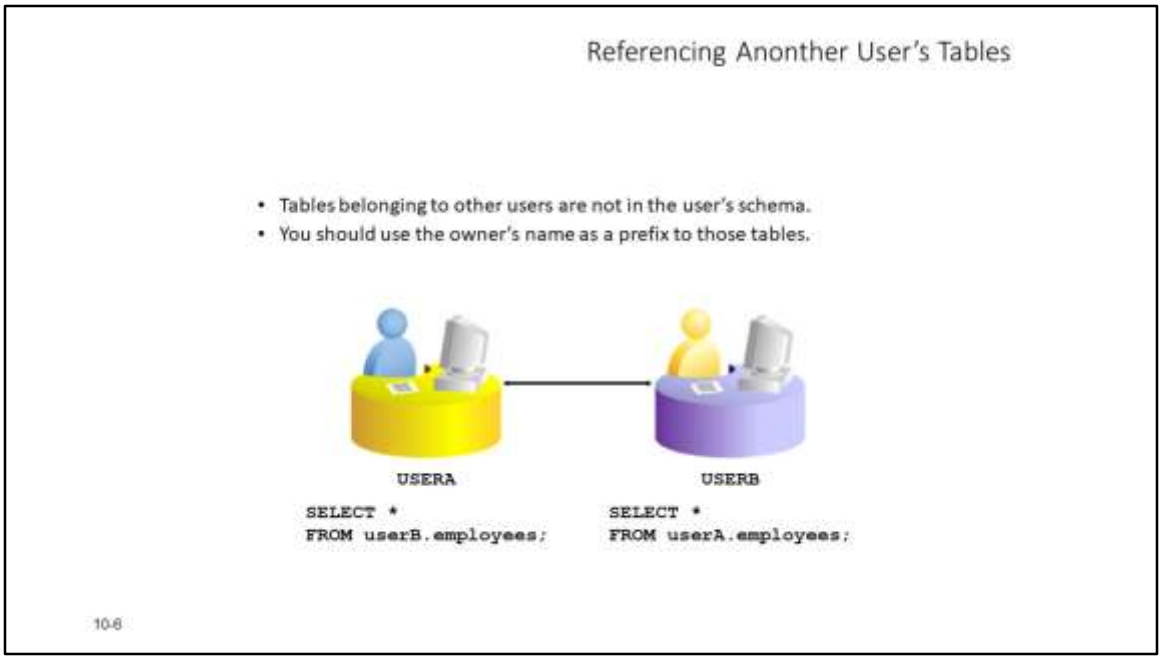
CREATE TABLE Statement

You create tables to store data by executing the SQL CREATE TABLE statement. This statement is one of the DDL statements that are a subset of the SQL statements used to create, modify, or remove Oracle Database structures. These statements have an immediate effect on the database and they also record information in the data dictionary.

To create a table, a user must have the CREATE TABLE privilege and a storage area in which to create objects. The database administrator (DBA) uses data control language (DCL) statements to grant privileges to users.

In the syntax:

schema	Is the same as the owner's name
table	Is the name of the table
DEFAULT *expr*	Specifies a default value if a value is omitted in the INSERT statement
column	Is the name of the column
datatype	Is the column's data type and length



Referencing Another User's Tables

A schema is a collection of logical structures of data or *schema objects*. A schema is owned by a database user and has the same name as that user. Each user owns a single schema.

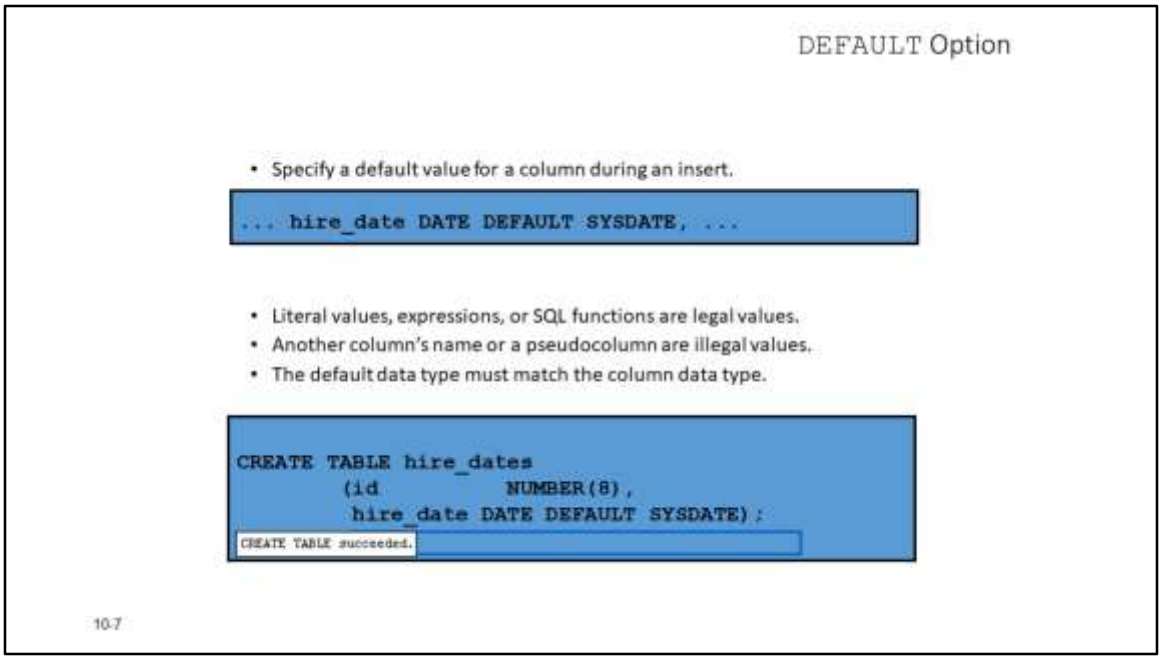
Schema objects can be created and manipulated with SQL and include tables, views, synonyms, sequences, stored procedures, indexes, clusters, and database links.

If a table does not belong to the user, the owner's name must be prefixed to the table. For example, if there are schemas named `USERA` and `USERB`, and both have an `EMPLOYEES` table, then if `USERA` wants to access the `EMPLOYEES` table that belongs to `USERB`, `USERA` must prefix the table name with the schema name:

```
SELECT *
FROM   userb.employees;
```

If `USERB` wants to access the `EMPLOYEES` table that is owned by `USERA`, `USERB` must prefix the table name with the schema name:

```
SELECT *
FROM   usera.employees;
```



DEFAULT Option

When you define a table, you can specify that a column should be given a default value by using the DEFAULT option. This option prevents null values from entering the columns when a row is inserted without a value for the column. The default value can be a literal, an expression, or a SQL function (such as SYSDATE or USER), but the value cannot be the name of another column or a pseudocolumn (such as NEXTVAL or CURRVAL). The default expression must match the data type of the column.

Consider the following examples:

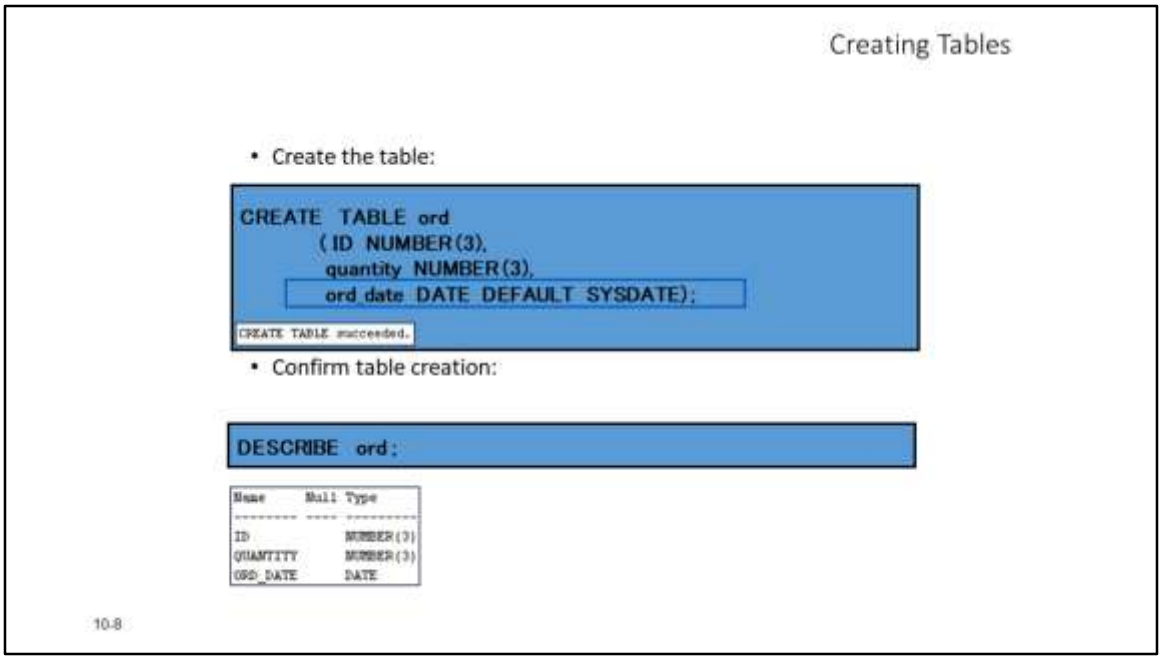
```
INSERT INTO hire_dates values(45, NULL);
```

The above statement will insert the null value rather than the default value.

```
INSERT INTO hire_dates(id) values(35);
```

The above statement will insert SYSDATE for the HIRE_DATE column.

Note: In SQL Developer, click the Run Script icon or press [F5] to run the DDL statements. The feedback messages will be shown on the Script Output tabbed page.



Creating Tables

The example in the slide creates the `ORD` table with three columns: ID, QUANTITY, and `ORD_DATE`. The `ORD_DATE` column has a default value. If a value is not provided for an `INSERT` statement, the system date is automatically inserted.

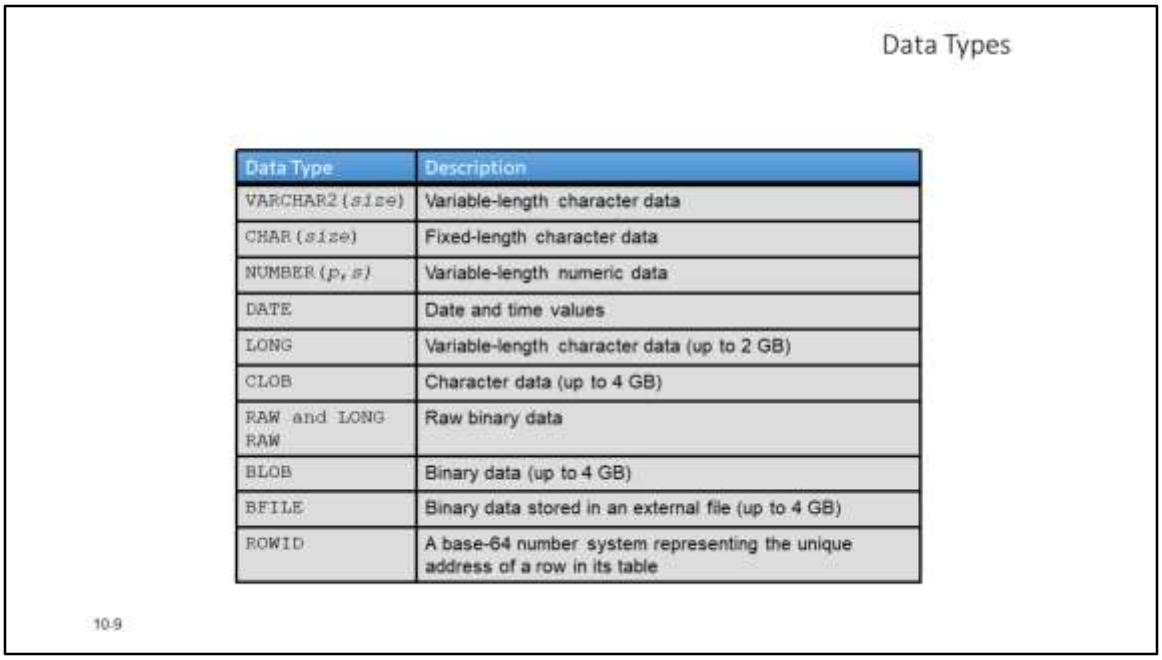
To confirm that the table was created, run the `DESCRIBE` command.

Because creating a table is a DDL statement, an automatic commit takes place when this statement is executed.

Note: You can view the list of tables you own by querying the data dictionary. For example:

```
select table_name from user_tables
```

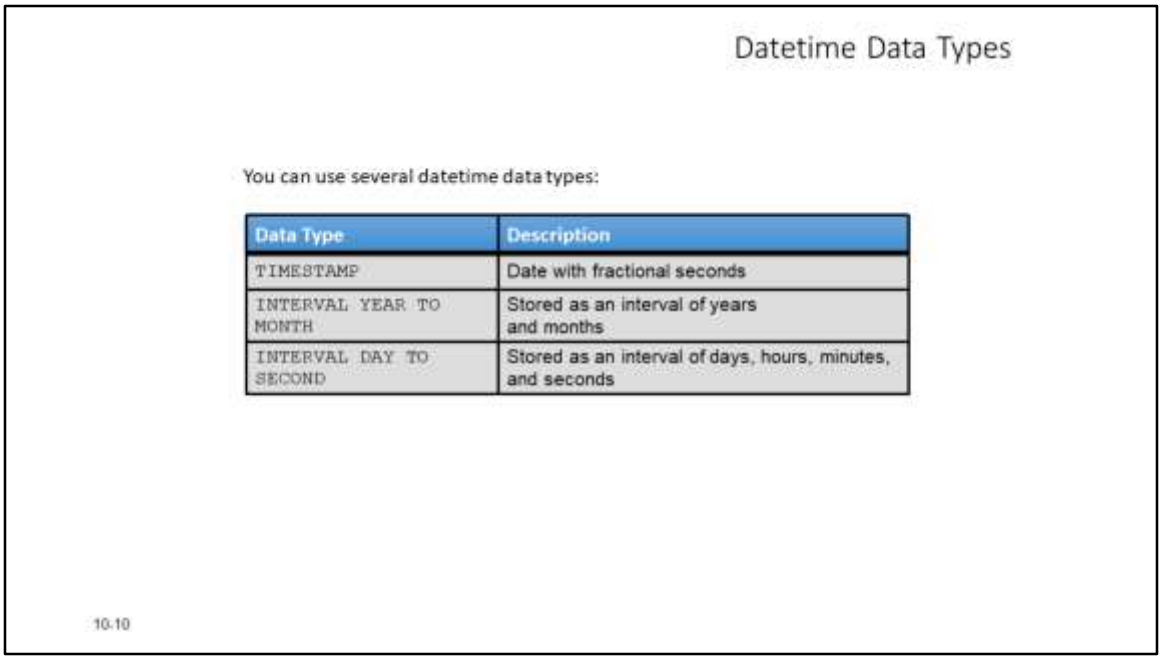
Using data dictionary views, you can also find information about other database objects such as views, indexes, and so on. You will learn about data dictionaries in detail in the *Oracle Database: SQL Fundaments II* course.



Data Types

When you identify a column for a table, you need to provide a data type for the column. There are several data types available:

Data Type	Description
VARCHAR2(*size*)	Variable-length character data (A maximum *size* must be specified: minimum *size* is 1; maximum *size* is 4,000.)
CHAR [(*size*)]	Fixed-length character data of length *size* bytes (Default and minimum *size* is 1; maximum *size* is 2,000.)
NUMBER [(*p*,*s*)]	Number having precision *p* and scale *s* (Precision is the total number of decimal digits and scale is the number of digits to the right of the decimal point; precision can range from 1 to 38, and scale can range from –84 to 127.)
DATE	Date and time values to the nearest second between January 1, 4712 B.C., and December 31, 9999 A.D.
LONG	Variable-length character data (up to 2 GB)
CLOB	Character data (up to 4 GB)



Datetime Data Types

Data Type	Description
TIMESTAMP	Enables storage of time as a date with fractional seconds. It stores the year, month, day, hour, minute, and the second value of the DATE data type as well as the fractional seconds value There are several variations of this data type such as WITH TIMEZONE, WITH LOCALTIMEZONE
INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH	Enables storage of time as an interval of years and months. Used to represent the difference between two datetime values in which the only significant portions are the year and month
INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND	Enables storage of time as an interval of days, hours, minutes, and seconds. Used to represent the precise difference between two datetime values

Note: These datetime data types are available with Oracle9*i* and later releases. The datetime data types are discussed in detail in the lesson titled "Managing Data in Different Time Zones" in the *Oracle Database: SQL Fundamentals II* course.

Also, for more information about the datetime data types, see the sections on "TIMESTAMP Datatype," "INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH Datatype," and "INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND Datatype" in *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference* for 10*g* or 11*g* database.