

## # Your First Queries

```
> **Series:** ONBRD | **Notebook:** 8 of 10 | **Created:** December 2025
```

## ## Learning DQL Fundamentals

Dynatrace Query Language (DQL) is how you access data in Grail. This notebook introduces the core concepts and patterns you'll use daily.

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## ## Prerequisites

- Dynatrace environment with data (ONBRD-05, ONBRD-06, ONBRD-07)
- DQL query permissions
- Access to Notebooks or the DQL query interface

## ## 1. DOL Basics

DQL is a **pipeline-based query language**—not SQL. Data flows through a series of commands connected by the pipe (`|`) operator.

```
! [DQL Pipeline]
```

```
(  
ciIHZpZXhCb3g9IjAgMCA4MDAgMjAwIj4KICA8ZGVmcz4KICAgIDxsaw5lYXJHcmFkaWVudCBpZD0  
iZmV0Y2hHcmFkIiB4MT0iMCUiIHxpPSIwJSIgeDI9IjEwMCUiIHkyPSIxMDAlIj4KICAgICAgPHN0  
b3Agb2Zmc2V0PSIwJSIgc3R5bGU9InN0b3AtY29sb3I6IzE0OTZmZjtzdG9wLW9wYWNPdHhk6MSIg  
Lz4KICAgICAgPHN0b3Agb2Zmc2V0PSIxMDAlIiBzdhHlsZT0ic3RvcC1jb2xvcjojMGEE2NGJj03N0b3  
Atb3BhY2l0eToxiAvPgogICAgPC9saW5lYXJHcmFkaWVudD4KICAgIDxsaw5lYXJHcmFkaWVudCB  
pZD0iZmlsdGVyR3RhZCIgeDE9IjAlIiB5MT0iMCUiIHgyPSIxMDAlIiB5Mj0iMTAwJSI+CIAgICAg  
IDxzdg9wIG9mZnNldD0iMCUiIHNoewxlPSJzdG9wLWNvbG9y0iMxMGFI5ODE7c3RvcC1vcGFjaXR5O  
jEiIC8+CIAgICAgIDxzdg9wIG9mZnNldD0iMTAwJSIgc3R5bGU9InN0b3AtY29sb3I6IzA1OTY2OT
```

tzdG9wLW9wYWNpdHk6MSIgIz4KICAgIDwbvGluZWfYr3JhZGLlbnQ+CIAgICA8BgluZWfYr3JhZGLlbnQgaWQ9ImZpZwxkc0dyYWQiIHgxPSIWJSIGeTE9IjAlIIB4Mj0MTAwJSIGeTI9IjEwMCUipGogICAgICA8c3RvcCBvZmZzZXQ9IjAlIIBzdHlsZT0ic3RvcC1jb2xvcjoJzJyU5ZTBiO3N0b3Atb3BhY2l0eToxiIAvPgogICAgICA8c3RvcCBvZmZzZXQ9IjEwMCUiIHN0eWxlPSJzdG9wLWNvbG9yOinKOTc3MDY7c3RvcC1vcGFjaXR50jEiIC8+CIAgICA8L2xpbmVhckdyYWRpZW50PgogICAgPGxpbmVhckdyYWRpZW50IGlkPSJzb3J0R3JhZCIgeDE9IjAlIIB5MT0IMCUiIHgyPSIXMDALiIB5Mj0IMTAwJSI+CIAgICAgIDxdG9wIG9mZnNldD0IMCUiIHN0eWxlPSJzdG9wLWNvbG9yOim4YjVjZjY7c3RvcC1vcGFjaXR50jEiIC8+CIAgICAgIDxdG9wIG9mZnNldD0IMTAwJSIGc3R5bGU9InN0b3AtY29sb3I6IzdjM2FLZDtzdG9wLW9wYWNpdHk6MSIgIz4KICAgIDwbvGluZWfYr3JhZGLlbnQ+CIAgICA8ZmlsdGVyIGlkPSJwaXBlbGlucyVNoYWRvdYI+CIAgICAgIDxmZURyb3BTaGFkb3cgZHg9IjEiIGR5PSIXiIBzdGREZXZpYXRpb249IjIiIGZsb29kLW9wYWNpdHk9IjAuMTUIlZ4KICAgIDwvZmlsdGVyPgogICAgP1hcmtlcibPD0icGluZWfYcm93IIBtYXJRZXJXawR0aD0IMTAiIG1hcmtlcKhlaWdodD0iNyIgcVmWD0iOSIgcVmWT0iMy41IiBvcmlbnQ9ImF1dG8iPGogICAgICA8cG9seWdvbiBwb2ludHM9IjA gMCwgMTAgMy41LCaWIdciIGZpbGw9IIM2NDc0OGIilZ4KICAgIDwvbwFYa2VyPgogIDwvZGVmcz4K CiAgPCETLSBCYWNrZ3JvdW5kIC0tPgogIDxyZWNOIHdpZHRoPSI4MDAiIGHlaWdodD0imjAwIiBma WxsPSIJjzhm0WZhIIByeD0IMTAiLz4KCIAgPCEtLSBUaXR5ZSAatLT4KICA8dGV4dCB4PSI0MDAiIH k9IjI4IiBmb250LWZhbWlseT0iQXJpYWwsIHhnbMtC2VyaWYiIGZvbnQtcl6ZT0IMgtiIGZvbnQ td2VpZ2h0PSJib2xkiBmaWxsPSIJmzMziIB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlkZGxLIj5EUUwgUGlwZWxp bmUgTW9kZWw8L3RleHQ+CIAgPHRleHQgeD0iNDAwiIB5PSI00CiGzm9udC1mYW1pbHk9IkFyaWFsL CBzYW5zLXNlcmlmiBmb250LXNpemU9IjExIiBmaWxsPSIJnjY2IiB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlkZG xLIj5EYXRhIGZsb3dzIHRocm91Z2ggY29tbWFWZUMgY29ubmVjdGvkIGJ5IHRoZSBwaXBlicH8KS BvcGVyYXRvcjwvdGV4dD4KICIAgPCEtLSBQaXBlbGlucyZSBTdGFncXMgLS0+CIAgPCEtLSBGZXRjaCAat LT4KICA8cmVjdCB4PSI0MCIGet0inZuiIHdpZHRoPSIXNDaiIGHlaWdodD0inZaiIHJ4PSIXMCIGz mlsbD0idXJsKCNmZXRjaEdyYWQPIiBmaWx0ZXI9InVybcGjcGluZWxpbmVTaGFkb3cpIi8+CIAgPH RleHQgeD0IMTEwiIB5PSIXMDUiIGZvbnQtZmFtaWx5PSJBcmhhbCwgc2FucylzZXJpZiIgZm9udC1 zaXplPSIXMyIgZm9udC13ZWlnaHQ9ImJvbGQiIGZpbGw9IndoaXRliIB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlk ZGxLIj5mZXRjaDwvdGV4dD4KICA8dGV4dCB4PSIXMTAiIHk9IjEyNSIgZm9udC1mYW1pbHk9IkFya WFsLCBzYW5zLXNlcmlmiBmb250LXNpemU9IjExIiBmaWxsPSJyZ2JhKDIlNSwyNTUsMjU1LDAuOS kiIHRleHQTYW5jaG9yPSJtaWRkbGUipmxvZ3M8L3RleHQ+CgogIDwhLS0gQXJyb3cgLS0+CIAgPHB hdGggZD0iTTE4NSwxMTAgTDixNSwxMTAiIHN0cm9rZT0iIizY0NzQ4YiIgc3Ryb2tllXdpZHRoPSIy iBmaWxsPSJub25liIBtYXJRZXItZW5kPSJ1cmwoI3BpcGVBCnJvdykiLz4KCIAgPCEtLSBGaWx0Z XIgLS0+CIAgPHJLY3QgeD0imjIWIiB5PSI3NSIgd2lkdGg9IjE0MCIGaGVpZ2h0PSI3MCIGcng9Ij EwIiBmaWxsPSJ1cmwoI2ZpbHRlcldyYWQPIiBmaWx0ZXI9InVybcGjcGluZWxpbmVTaGFkb3cpIi8 +CIAgPHRleHQgeD0imjkwiIB5PSIXMDUiIGZvbnQtZmFtaWx5PSJBcmhhbCwgc2FucylzZXJpZiIg Zm9udC1zaXplPSIXMyIgZm9udC13ZWlnaHQ9ImJvbGQiIGZpbGw9IndoaXRliIB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvc j0ibWlkZGxLIj5maWx0ZXI8L3RleHQ+CIAgPHRleHQgeD0imjkwiIB5PSIXmjuIIGZvbnQtZmFtaW x5PSJBcmhhbCwgc2FucylzZXJpZiIgZm9udC1zaXplPSIXMSIgZmlsbD0icmdiYSgyNTUsMjU1LDI 1NSwwLjpkIiB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlkZGxLIj5zdGF0dXM8L3RleHQ+CgogIDwhLS0gQXJyb3cg LS0+CIAgPHBhdGggZD0ITTM2NSwxMTAgTDM5NSwxMTAiIHN0cm9rZT0iIizY0NzQ4YiIgc3Ryb2tll XdpZHRoPSIyiBmaWxsPSJub25liIBtYXJRZXItZW5kPSJ1cmwoI3BpcGVBCnJvdykiLz4KCIAgPC ETLSBGaWVsZHMgLS0+CIAgPHJLY3QgeD0iNDAwiIB5PSI3NSIgd2lkdGg9IjE0MCIGaGVpZ2h0PSI 3MCIGcng9IjEwIiBmaWxsPSJ1cmwoI2ZpZmxkc0dyYWQPIiBmaWx0ZXI9InVybcGjcGluZWxpbmVT aGFkb3cpIi8+CIAgPHRleHQgeD0iNDcwIiB5PSIXMDUiIGZvbnQtZmFtaWx5PSJBcmhhbCwgc2Fuc ylzZXJpZiIgZm9udC1zaXplPSIXMyIgZm9udC13ZWlnaHQ9ImJvbGQiIGZpbGw9IndoaXRliIB0ZX h0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlkZGxLIj5maWVsZHM8L3RleHQ+CIAgPHRleHQgeD0iNDcwIiB5PSIXmjuIIGZ vbnQtZmFtaWx5PSJBcmhhbCwgc2FucylzZXJpZiIgZm9udC1zaXplPSIXMSIgZmlsbD0icmdiYSgy NTUsMjU1LDI1NSwwLjpkIiB0ZXh0LWFuY2hvcj0ibWlkZGxLIj5zZWxly3Q8L3RleHQ+CgogIDwhL S0gQXJyb3cgLS0+CIAgPHBhdGggZD0ITTU0NSwxMTAgTDU3NSwxMTAiIHN0cm9rZT0iIizY0NzQ4Yi

### ### DQL vs SQL

## ## 2. The Pipeline Model

```
```sql
fetch logs                                // 1. Get all logs
| filter loglevel == "error"             // 2. Keep only errors
```

```
| filter timestamp > now() - 1h // 3. Last hour only
| fields timestamp, content      // 4. Select columns
| sort timestamp desc           // 5. Order by time
| limit 100                     // 6. Take first 100
```

```

### ### Order Matters

- **\*\*Filter early\*\*** - Reduces data before expensive operations
- **\*\*Select fields\*\*** - Reduces memory usage
- **\*\*Aggregate\*\*** - Summarize before sorting
- **\*\*Sort\*\*** - Order the final results
- **\*\*Limit\*\*** - Control output size

## ## 3. Fetching Data

Every DQL query starts with a `fetch` command specifying the data source.

```
```dql
// Fetch logs (most common)
fetch logs
| limit 10
```
```

```
```dql
// Fetch spans (distributed traces)
fetch spans
| limit 10
```
```

```
```dql
// Fetch entity data (hosts)
fetch dt.entity.host
| limit 10
```
```

```
```dql
// Fetch problems
fetch dt.davis.problems
| limit 10
```
```

### ### Common Data Sources

| Source  | Description             |
|---------|-------------------------|
| `logs`  | Log records             |
| `spans` | Distributed trace spans |

```
| `events` | System events |
| `bizevents` | Business events |
| `dt.entity.host` | Host entities |
| `dt.entity.service` | Service entities |
| `dt.entity.process_group` | Process group entities |
| `dt.davis.problems` | Detected problems |
```

#### ## 4. Filtering

Use `filter` to narrow results. Filter as early as possible for performance.

```
```dql
// Filter by equality
fetch logs
| filter loglevel == "error"
| limit 20
```

```dql
// Filter with multiple conditions (AND)
fetch logs
| filter loglevel == "error"
| filter timestamp > now() - 1h
| limit 20
```

```dql
// Filter with OR condition
fetch logs
| filter loglevel == "error" or loglevel == "warn"
| limit 20
```

```dql
// Filter using IN for multiple values
fetch logs
| filter in(loglevel, {"error", "warn", "fatal"})
| limit 20
```

```dql
// Filter with string matching
fetch logs
| filter contains(content, "timeout")
| limit 20
```
```

#### ### Filter Operators

| Operator          | Example                   | Description           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| ----- ----- ----- |                           |                       |
| `==`              | `field == "value"`        | Equals                |
| `!=`              | `field != "value"`        | Not equals            |
| `>`, `<`          | `count > 10`              | Greater/less than     |
| `>=`, `<=`        | `count >= 10`             | Greater/less or equal |
| `and`, `or`       | `a == 1 and b == 2`       | Logical operators     |
| `in()`            | `in(field, {"a", "b"})`   | Value in set          |
| `contains()`      | `contains(field, "text")` | Substring match       |
| `isNull()`        | `isNull(field)`           | Field is null         |
| `isNotNull()`     | `isNotNull(field)`        | Field is not null     |

## ## 5. Selecting Fields

Use `fields` to select specific columns. This improves readability and performance.

```
```dql
// Select specific fields from logs
fetch logs
| fields timestamp, loglevel, log.source, content
| limit 20
```
```

```
```dql
// Create calculated fields
fetch spans
| fields span.name,
        duration,
        duration_ms = duration / 1000000.0
| limit 20
```
```

```
```dql
// Rename fields with aliases
fetch dt.entity.host
| fields name = entity.name,
        status = state,
        os = osType
| limit 20
```
```

## ### fieldsAdd vs fields

| Command     | Effect                      |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| ----- ----- |                             |
| `fields`    | Keeps only specified fields |

```
| `fieldsAdd` | Adds new fields, keeps all existing |
```

```
```dql
// fieldsAdd keeps existing fields and adds new ones
fetch spans
| fieldsAdd duration_ms = duration / 1000000.0
| fields span.name, duration, duration_ms
| limit 10
```
```

## ## 6. Aggregating with Summarize

Use `summarize` to aggregate data. Combine with `by:` for grouping.

```
```dql
// Simple count
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize total_logs = count()
```
```

```
```dql
// Count by group
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize log_count = count(), by: {loglevel}
| sort log_count desc
```
```

```
```dql
// Multiple aggregations
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize
    request_count = count(),
    avg_duration = avg(duration),
    max_duration = max(duration),
    by: {service.name}
| sort request_count desc
| limit 20
```
```

```
```dql
// Conditional counting
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize
    total = count(),
    errors = countIf(span.status_code == "error"),
    by: {service.name}
```

```
| fieldsAdd error_rate = 100.0 * errors / total
| sort error_rate desc
| limit 20
```

```

### ### Common Aggregation Functions

| Function                | Description                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| `count()`               | Count records                 |
| `countIf(condition)`    | Count where condition is true |
| `sum(field)`            | Sum values                    |
| `avg(field)`            | Average value                 |
| `min(field)`            | Minimum value                 |
| `max(field)`            | Maximum value                 |
| `percentile(field, 95)` | 95th percentile               |

## ## 7. Sorting and Limiting

Control output order and size.

```
```dql
// Sort descending (newest first)
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| fields timestamp, loglevel, content
| sort timestamp desc
| limit 20
```

```

```
```dql
// Sort by multiple fields
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize request_count = count(), by: {service.name}
| sort request_count desc
| limit 10
```

```

```
```dql
// Find slowest spans
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| fields span.name, service.name, duration
| sort duration desc
| limit 10
```

```

## ## 8. Time Ranges



Control the time range for your queries.

```
```dql
// Last hour (using from: parameter)
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize count()
```

```dql
// Specific time range
fetch logs, from: now() - 24h, to: now() - 12h
| summarize count()
```

```dql
// Last 7 days
fetch dt.davis.problems, from: now() - 7d
| summarize problem_count = count(), by: {status}
```
```

### Time Units

| Unit | Example       | Description |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| `s`  | `now() - 30s` | Seconds     |
| `m`  | `now() - 15m` | Minutes     |
| `h`  | `now() - 2h`  | Hours       |
| `d`  | `now() - 7d`  | Days        |

## 9. Common Patterns

Here are patterns you'll use frequently.

### Error Investigation

```
```dql
// Find error logs with context
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter loglevel == "error"
| fields timestamp, log.source, content
| sort timestamp desc
| limit 50
```
```

### Service Performance

```
```dql
// Service response time summary
```

```

fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize
    requests = count(),
    avg_ms = avg(duration) / 1000000.0,
    p95_ms = percentile(duration, 95) / 1000000.0,
    by: {service.name}
| sort requests desc
| limit 20
```

```

### ### Log Volume Analysis

```

```dql
// Log volume by source and severity
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize log_count = count(), by: {log.source, loglevel}
| sort log_count desc
| limit 30
```

```

### ### Entity Inventory

```

```dql
// Host inventory with details
fetch dt.entity.host
| fields
    name = entity.name,
    state,
    os = osType,
    cores = cpuCores
| sort name
| limit 50
```

```

## ## 10. Next Steps

With DQL fundamentals covered:

1. **\*\*ONBRD-09: Setting Up Alerts\*\*** – Configure alerting and notifications
2. Practice with your own data
3. Explore the DQL documentation for advanced functions
4. Try creating queries in Notebooks

### ### DQL Checklist

- [ ] Understand the pipeline model
- [ ] Can fetch different data types

- [ ] Can filter with conditions
- [ ] Can select and calculate fields
- [ ] Can aggregate with summarize
- [ ] Can sort and limit results
- [ ] Can specify time ranges

---

## ## Summary

In this notebook, you learned:

- DQL uses a pipeline model (not SQL)
- `fetch` starts every query
- `filter` narrows results
- `fields` selects and calculates columns
- `summarize` aggregates data
- `sort` and `limit` control output
- Time ranges with `from:` and `to:`

---

## ## References

- [DQL Reference](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/platform/grail/dynatrace-query-language>)
- [DQL Functions](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/platform/grail/dynatrace-query-language/functions>)
- [DQL Commands](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/platform/grail/dynatrace-query-language/commands>)
- [DQL Examples](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/platform/grail/dynatrace-query-language/dql-examples>)