

SQL NOT NULL Constraint

By default, a column can hold `NULL` values. The `NOT NULL` constraint enforces a column to `NOT` accept `NULL` values, ensuring that a field always contains a value. This means you cannot insert or update a record without providing a value for this field.

SQL NOT NULL on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL ensures that the `ID`, `LastName`, and `FirstName` columns will `NOT` accept `NULL` values when the `Persons` table is created:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    Age int  
);
```

SQL NOT NULL on ALTER TABLE

To create a `NOT NULL` constraint on the `Age` column when the `Persons` table is already created, use the following SQL:

SQL Server / MS Access:

To create a `NOT NULL` constraint on the `Age` column when the `Persons` table is already created, use the following SQL:

SQL Server / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ALTER COLUMN Age int NOT NULL;
```

MySQL / Oracle (prior version 10G):

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
MODIFY COLUMN Age int NOT NULL;
```

Oracle 10G and later:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
MODIFY Age int NOT NULL;
```