

Theory: Basic DELETE statement

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You already know how to insert data into tables. However, in real life we don't just collect records, sometimes we want to get rid of them. Let's find out how we can delete rows from a table with SQL queries.

§1. DELETE statement

To delete all the data from the table but not the table itself, use a query with a DELETE FROM statement.

For example, let's delete all the information from the following table titled *books*:

title	author	quantity
Thinking in Java	Bruce Eckel	10
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	20
Mansfield Park	Jane Austen	30
The Call of Cthulhu	Howard Lovecraft	25

We can do that with a very simple query:

```
1 | DELETE FROM books
```

As a result of the query execution we still have the table *books*, but it is empty now.

§2. Delete selected rows

You can also use DELETE FROM statement to delete only selected rows from a table.

Let's assume that we have added a few new rows in our table *books*:

title	author	quantity
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	0
The Gambler	Fyodor Dostoevsky	0
Dandelion Wine	Ray Bradbury	14

As you can see, some books from the table are unavailable (their quantity equals zero). We can delete records about these books with an SQL query with a WHERE clause:

```
1 | DELETE FROM books WHERE quantity = 0
```

This query will delete all the rows from the table *books* where the logical expression

```
1 | quantity = 0
```

is true.

After we execute the query, our table *books* will look like this:

title	author	quantity
Dandelion Wine	Ray Bradbury	14

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§3. Conclusion

The following query can be used to delete all the rows without deleting the table:

```
1 | DELETE FROM table_name
```

If you want to delete only selected rows, you can use this template:

```
1 | DELETE FROM table_name WHERE logical_expression
```

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