

SQL UPDATE Statement

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The SQL UPDATE Statement

The UPDATE statement is used to modify the existing records in a table.

UPDATE Syntax

```
UPDATE table_name  
SET column1 = value1, column2 = value2,  
...  
WHERE condition;
```

Note: Be careful when updating records in a table! Notice the WHERE clause in the UPDATE statement. The WHERE clause specifies which record(s) that should be updated. If you omit the WHERE clause, all records in the table will be updated!

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Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund

UPDATE Table

The following SQL statement updates the first customer (CustomerID = 1) with a new contact person *and* a new city.

Example

```
UPDATE Customers
SET ContactName = 'Alfred Schmidt',
City= 'Frankfurt'
WHERE CustomerID = 1;
```

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The selection from the "Customers" table will now

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look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Alfred Schmidt
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund

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UPDATE Multiple Records

It is the WHERE clause that determines how many records will be updated.

The following SQL statement will update the contactname to "Juan" for all records where country is "Mexico":

Example

```
UPDATE Customers
SET ContactName='Juan'
WHERE Country='Mexico';
```

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The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Alfred Schmidt
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Juan
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Juan
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund

Update Warning!

Be careful when updating records. If you omit the WHERE clause, ALL records will be updated!

Example

```
UPDATE Customers  
SET ContactName='Juan';
```

Try it Yourself »

The selection from the "Customers" table will now look like this:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Juan

2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Juan
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Juan
4	Around the Horn	Juan
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Juan

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Update the `City` column of all records in the `Customers` table.

```
Customers  
City = 'Oslo';
```

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