

SQL Tutorial

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SQL TOP, LIMIT or ROWNUM Clause

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The SQL SELECT TOP Clause

The SELECT TOP clause is used to specify the number of records to return.

The SELECT TOP clause is useful on large tables with thousands of records. Returning a large number of records can impact performance.

Note: Not all database systems support the SELECT TOP clause. MySQL supports the LIMIT clause to select a limited number of records, while Oracle uses ROWNUM.

SQL Server / MS Access Syntax:

```
SELECT TOP number|percent column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE condition;
```

COLOR
PICKER



HOW
TO

MySQL Syntax:

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE condition
LIMIT number;
```

Oracle Syntax:

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE ROWNUM <= number;
```

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

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 Accordion
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 Navigational
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SQL TOP, LIMIT and ROWNUM Examples

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The following SQL statement selects the first three records from the "Customers" table:

Example

```
SELECT TOP 3 * FROM Customers;
```

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The following SQL statement shows the equivalent example using the LIMIT clause:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
LIMIT 3;
```

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The following SQL statement shows the equivalent example using ROWNUM:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
WHERE ROWNUM <= 3;
```

SQL TOP PERCENT

Example

The following SQL statement selects the first 50% of the records from the "Customers" table:

Example

```
SELECT TOP 50 PERCENT * FROM Customers;
```

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ADD a WHERE CLAUSE

The following SQL statement selects the first three records from the "Customers" table, where the country is "Germany":

Example

```
SELECT TOP 3 * FROM Customers  
WHERE Country='Germany';
```

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The following SQL statement shows the equivalent example using the LIMIT clause:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
WHERE Country='Germany'  
LIMIT 3;
```

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The following SQL statement shows the equivalent example using ROWNUM:

Example

```
SELECT * FROM Customers  
WHERE Country='Germany' AND ROWNUM <= 3;
```

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