

IT125 SQL Script Style Guide

While much more complete/fancy style guides exist ([example here](#)), let's use this guide for the SQL scripts we write for this class. We may expand this guide as we move from DML to DDL.

Guide

1. Separate SQL statements by a single blank line.
2. Start each SQL statement with a one-line comment giving context (e.g., indicating what question it is answering). For query assignments, also say how many rows were returned by the query.
3. Capitalize all keywords and built-in function names (e.g., SELECT, ORDER BY, CONCAT, FROM, AND).
4. Start each major clause on a new line (e.g., SELECT, FROM, WHERE, ORDER BY). Only major clauses should appear at the left margin; indent subordinate clauses.
5. Further indent wrapped lines (by four spaces/one tab) that are part of the same clause.
6. Where possible, use spaces to align parallel elements so they are easy to identify.
7. Use block-style comments for any long comments or narrative project work included.

Examples

#1

```
SELECT *
FROM active_invoices
WHERE invoice_date > '2015-12-01'
      AND invoice_total > 2000
ORDER BY customer DESC;
```

#2

```
SELECT customer_last_name AS 'Name', customer_first_name AS 'First',
      customer_state AS 'State', customer_phone AS 'Phone'
FROM customers
WHERE customer_state = 'NC'
      OR customer_state = 'SC';
```

#3

```
SELECT city.name as City, country.name as Country, countrylanguage.language
FROM city
      JOIN country          ON city.CountryCode = country.Code
      JOIN countrylanguage  ON country.Code      = countrylanguage.CountryCode
WHERE Language IN ('Spanish', 'French')
ORDER by country.name, city.name;
```

#4

```
/*
    A Foreign Key is a column in one table that relates to data used
    as the Primary Key in another table. Foreign keys are often used
    to express one-to-many relationships between tables, with the table
    containing the Foreign Key representing the "many" side.
*/
```