

Sql Practice Exercises With Solutions

SQL Practice Exercises with Solutions Mastering SQL (Structured Query Language) is essential for anyone aiming to excel in data analysis, database management, or backend development. Whether you're a beginner or looking to sharpen your skills, practicing SQL through well-designed exercises can significantly enhance your understanding and problem-solving abilities. This article provides comprehensive SQL practice exercises with solutions, covering fundamental concepts and gradually progressing to more advanced topics. By working through these exercises, you'll strengthen your ability to write efficient queries, manipulate data effectively, and understand complex database operations.

Basic SQL Practice Exercises

These exercises focus on fundamental SQL concepts such as SELECT statements, filtering data, and simple aggregations. They are ideal for beginners starting their SQL journey.

Exercise 1: Retrieve All Data from a Table

Problem: Retrieve all records from the `employees` table. Solution: `SELECT FROM employees;`

Exercise 2: Select Specific Columns

Problem: Display only the `employee\_id`, `first\_name`, and `salary` columns from the `employees` table. Solution: `SELECT employee_id, first_name, salary FROM employees;`

Exercise 3: Filter Data Using WHERE

Problem: Find all employees with a salary greater than \$50,000. Solution: `SELECT FROM employees WHERE salary > 50000;`

Exercise 4: Use of AND, OR Operators

Problem: Retrieve employees who work in department 10 or 20 and earn less than \$60,000. Solution: `SELECT FROM employees WHERE (department_id IN (10, 20)) AND salary < 60000;`

Exercise 5: Sorting Data with ORDER BY

Problem: List employees ordered by their `hire\_date` from newest to oldest. Solution: `SELECT FROM employees ORDER BY hire_date DESC;`

Exercise 6: Limit the Number of Rows

Problem: Retrieve the top 5 highest-paid employees. Solution: `SELECT FROM employees ORDER BY salary DESC LIMIT 5;`

Intermediate SQL Practice Exercises

Building on basic skills, these exercises introduce joins, subqueries, grouping, and functions.

Exercise 7: Using JOINS

Problem: List employee names along with their department names. Assume `employees` and `departments` tables with `department\_id` as a common key. Solution: `SELECT e.first_name, e.last_name, d.department_name FROM employees e JOIN departments d ON e.department_id = d.department_id;`

Exercise 8: Aggregate Functions

Problem: Calculate the average salary of employees in each department. Solution: `SELECT department_id, AVG(salary) AS average_salary FROM employees GROUP BY department_id;`

Exercise 9: Filtering with HAVING

Problem: Find departments with an average salary greater than \$70,000. Solution: `SELECT department_id, AVG(salary) AS average_salary FROM employees GROUP BY department_id HAVING AVG(salary) > 70000;`

Exercise 10: Subqueries

Problem: Retrieve employees who earn more than the average salary across all employees. Solution: `SELECT first_name, last_name, salary FROM employees WHERE salary > (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM employees);`

Exercise 11: Using CASE Statements

Problem: Create a new column `salary\_grade` that categorizes salaries into 'Low', 'Medium', and 'High'. Solution: `SELECT first_name, last_name, salary, CASE WHEN salary < 40000 THEN 'Low' WHEN salary BETWEEN 40000 AND 70000 THEN 'Medium' ELSE 'High' END AS salary_grade FROM employees;`

Advanced SQL Practice Exercises

These exercises explore complex queries, window functions, and database design considerations.

Exercise 12: Window Functions

Problem: For each employee, calculate their salary rank within their department. Solution: `SELECT first_name, last_name, department_id, salary, RANK() OVER (PARTITION BY department_id ORDER BY salary DESC) AS salary_rank FROM employees;`

Exercise 13: Recursive Queries

Problem: Display an organizational hierarchy from the `employees` table with `employee\_id` and `manager\_id`. Solution: WITH RECURSIVE employee_hierarchy AS (SELECT employee_id, manager_id, first_name, last_name, 1 AS level FROM employees WHERE manager_id IS NULL UNION ALL SELECT e.employee_id, e.manager_id, e.first_name, e.last_name, eh.level + 1 FROM employees e INNER JOIN employee_hierarchy eh ON e.manager_id = eh.employee_id) SELECT FROM employee_hierarchy;

Exercise 14: Data Modification - UPDATE

Problem: Increase the salary of all employees in department 30 by 10%. Solution: UPDATE employees SET salary = salary 1.10 WHERE department_id = 30;

Exercise 15: Data Modification - DELETE

Problem: Remove all employees who have not made a salary payment in the last year. Assume there's a `last\_payment\_date` column. Solution: DELETE FROM employees WHERE last_payment_date < DATE_SUB(CURDATE(), INTERVAL 1 YEAR);

Tips for Effective SQL Practice

1. Start with simple queries and gradually move to complex ones.
2. Practice writing queries without looking at solutions first.
3. Use sample datasets to simulate real-world scenarios.
4. Understand the problem before jumping into writing SQL code.
5. Test your queries with different parameters and edge cases.
6. Review SQL documentation and resources to learn new functions and techniques.

Resources for Further Practice

1. [SQL Practice Problems](#)
2. [LeetCode SQL Problems](#)
3. [Mode SQL Tutorial](#)
4. [W3Schools SQL Tryit Editor](#)

Conclusion

Practicing SQL exercises with solutions is an invaluable method to deepen your understanding of database management and query writing. By steadily progressing through beginner, intermediate, and advanced problems, you'll develop the confidence and skills necessary to handle real-world data challenges. Remember to analyze each problem carefully, test your queries thoroughly, and explore different techniques to optimize your SQL proficiency. With consistent practice and curiosity, you'll become proficient in SQL and open up numerous opportunities in data-driven roles. Happy coding!

SQL Practice Exercises with Solutions: A Comprehensive Guide to Mastering SQL Skills

SQL (Structured Query Language) is the backbone of database management and a crucial skill for data analysts, developers, and database administrators. Whether you're just starting out or looking to sharpen your existing skills, practicing with real-world exercises is one of the most effective ways to learn SQL. In this guide, we will explore a series of SQL practice exercises with solutions designed to help you build a strong foundation and advance your query-writing capabilities. By working through these examples, you'll develop confidence in handling complex queries, understanding database structures, and optimizing your SQL code.

Why Practice SQL Exercises?

Before diving into the exercises, let's understand why consistent practice is essential:

1. Reinforces Learning: Applying concepts in practical scenarios helps solidify your understanding.
2. Builds Problem-Solving Skills: SQL exercises often involve troubleshooting and optimizing queries.
3. Prepares for Real-World Tasks: Many job roles require proficiency in writing efficient SQL queries.
4. Identifies Knowledge Gaps: Practice reveals areas where you need further study.

Setting Up Your Environment

To get the most out of these exercises, ensure you have access to a SQL environment. You can use:

1. Online Platforms: SQLZoo, LeetCode, HackerRank, Mode Analytics
2. Local Setup: Install MySQL, PostgreSQL, or SQLite on your machine
3. Sample Databases: Use provided sample databases like Sakila, Northwind, or create your own

Sample Database Schema

For these exercises, we'll assume a simplified e-commerce database with the following tables:

Customers

customer_id	name	email	city	registration_date
-------------	------	-------	------	-------------------

1	Alice Johnson	alice@example.com	New York	2020-01-15
2	Bob Smith	bob@example.com	Los Angeles	2019-07-22
...	...	...	...	...

Orders

order_id	customer_id	order_date	total_amount
----------	-------------	------------	--------------

1	1	2020-02-01	150.00
2	2	2019-08-10	200.00
...	...	...	...

| 101 | 1 | 2021-11-20 | 250.00 |

| 102 | 2 | 2021-11-21 | 125.50 |

| ... | ... | ... | ... |

Products

| product_id | name | category | price |

||||

| 1001 | Wireless Mouse | Accessories | 25.00 |

| 1002 | Mechanical Keyboard | Accessories | 70.00 |

| ... | ... | ... | ... |

OrderDetails

| order_id | product_id | quantity |

|||

| 101 | 1001 | 2 |

| 101 | 1002 | 1 |

| 102 | 1001 | 1 |

| ... | ... | ... |

Basic SQL Practice Exercises with Solutions

1. Retrieve All Customers

Exercise: Write a SQL query to select all columns for every customer.

```
SELECT FROM Customers;
```

Solution Explanation:

This simple query fetches all the data from the Customers table, providing a comprehensive list of customers.

1. Find Customers from a Specific City

Exercise: List all customers who are from 'New York'.

```
SELECT name, email FROM Customers WHERE city = 'New York';
```

Solution Explanation:

The WHERE clause filters records to only include customers whose city matches 'New York'.

1. Count Total Number of Orders

Exercise: Find out how many orders have been placed.

```
SELECT COUNT() AS total_orders FROM Orders;
```

Solution Explanation:

The COUNT() function tallies all rows in the Orders table, giving the total number of orders.

Intermediate SQL Exercises

1. List Orders with Total Amount Greater Than \$200

Exercise: Retrieve order IDs and total amounts for orders exceeding \$200.

```
SELECT order_id, total_amount FROM Orders WHERE total_amount > 200;
```

Solution Explanation:

The WHERE clause filters the orders to only include those with total_amount greater than 200.

1. Find the Customer Name for Each Order

Exercise: Join Orders with Customers to display order IDs alongside customer names.

```
SELECT o.order_id, c.name AS customer_name
```

```
FROM Orders o
```

```
JOIN Customers c ON o.customer_id = c.customer_id;
```

Solution Explanation:

This uses a JOIN to connect Orders with Customers based on matching customer_id values, enabling display of customer names alongside their orders.

1. List Products and Their Prices

Exercise: Retrieve all products with their names and prices.

```
SELECT name, price FROM Products;
```

Solution Explanation:

A straightforward SELECT statement fetching product names and prices.

Advanced SQL Practice Exercises

1. Find the Top 3 Most Expensive Products

Exercise: List the top three products with the highest prices.

```
SELECT name, price
```

```
FROM Products
```

```
ORDER BY price DESC
```

```
LIMIT 3;
```

Solution Explanation:

ORDER BY sorts products by price in descending order, and LIMIT restricts the output to the top 3.

1. Calculate Total Revenue per Customer

Exercise: For each customer, compute the total revenue from their orders.

```
SELECT c.name, SUM(o.total_amount) AS total_revenue
FROM Customers c
JOIN Orders o ON c.customer_id = o.customer_id
GROUP BY c.customer_id, c.name;
```

Solution Explanation:

This joins Customers and Orders, groups the data by customer, and sums the total_amounts to get total revenue per customer.

1. Find Customers Who Have Not Placed Any Orders

Exercise: List customers who haven't placed any orders.

```
SELECT c.name
FROM Customers c
LEFT JOIN Orders o ON c.customer_id = o.customer_id
WHERE o.order_id IS NULL;
```

Solution Explanation:

A LEFT JOIN includes all customers, and the WHERE clause filters for those with no matching orders (NULL in order_id).

1. Identify Products Never Ordered

Exercise: List products that haven't been included in any order.

```
SELECT p.name
FROM Products p
LEFT JOIN OrderDetails od ON p.product_id = od.product_id
WHERE od.product_id IS NULL;
```

Solution Explanation:

Similar to previous, but focusing on Product and OrderDetails. The WHERE clause filters for products with no corresponding entries in OrderDetails.

Tips for Effective SQL Practice

1. Start with simple queries and gradually increase complexity.
2. Use sample databases to practice real-world scenarios.
3. Write queries from scratch rather than copying solutions.
4. Test your queries with different parameters.
5. Optimize your queries for performance, especially on large datasets.

6. Document your thought process to improve problem-solving skills.

Additional Resources

- 1. Books: "SQL in 10 Minutes, Sams Teach Yourself" by Ben Forta
- 2. Online Courses: Coursera, Udemy, Khan Academy
- 3. Practice Platforms: LeetCode, HackerRank, Mode Analytics
- 4. Official Documentation: MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite docs

Conclusion

Mastering SQL requires consistent practice and exposure to diverse query challenges. The SQL practice exercises with solutions provided in this guide are designed to help you develop a robust understanding of fundamental and advanced concepts. By working through these exercises and exploring variations, you'll be well on your way to becoming proficient in SQL, capable of handling complex data retrieval and manipulation tasks with confidence. Remember, the key to mastery is perseverance—keep practicing, stay curious, and leverage available resources to deepen your knowledge.

Questions & Answers About sql practice exercises with solutions

No	Question	Answer
1	What are some effective SQL practice exercises for beginners?	Beginner exercises include creating tables, inserting data, retrieving data with SELECT statements, filtering with WHERE clauses, updating records, and deleting entries. Practice with real-world datasets like employee or product tables to build foundational skills.
2	How can I improve my SQL query writing skills through exercises?	Consistently solve problems such as writing complex JOINS, aggregate functions, subqueries, and nested queries. Use online platforms like LeetCode, HackerRank, or SQLZoo that offer hands-on exercises with solutions and explanations to enhance your understanding.
3	Are there sample SQL exercises with solutions available for practicing joins?	Yes, many resources provide exercises on different types of joins (INNER, LEFT, RIGHT, FULL). For example, practice retrieving data from multiple tables with sample datasets and refer to step-by-step solutions to understand join logic.
4	What are some common SQL practice problems involving data manipulation?	Common problems include updating multiple records with conditions, deleting duplicate entries, inserting data with constraints, and transforming data formats. Solving these helps you master data manipulation commands like UPDATE, DELETE, INSERT, and ALTER.

5	How can I use SQL practice exercises to prepare for SQL certification exams?	Focus on exercises covering core topics like data retrieval, aggregation, joins, subqueries, indexing, and transaction management. Use practice problems with solutions from certification prep books or online courses to simulate exam conditions.
6	Are there advanced SQL exercises with solutions to challenge my skills?	Yes, advanced exercises include writing recursive queries, optimizing query performance, working with window functions, and handling complex subqueries. Practice these with datasets that mimic real-world complexities to deepen your expertise.
7	What are some online platforms offering SQL practice exercises with detailed solutions?	Platforms like LeetCode, HackerRank, SQLZoo, Mode Analytics, and W3Schools offer a wide range of SQL exercises with solutions and explanations, suitable for all skill levels.
8	How can I verify my SQL practice solutions are correct?	Compare your query results with provided solutions, use test datasets to validate outputs, and understand the logic behind each solution. Additionally, using database management tools to run and debug queries helps ensure correctness.

SQL exercises, SQL solutions, SQL practice problems, SQL tutorial, SQL query examples, SQL training, SQL query exercises, SQL coding practice, SQL query solutions, SQL learning