

# MYSQL RAND FUNCTION

<http://www.tutorialspoint.com/mysql/mysql-rand-function.htm>

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MySQL has a **RAND** function that can be invoked to produce random numbers between 0 and 1:

```
mysql> SELECT RAND( ), RAND( ), RAND( );
+-----+-----+-----+
| RAND( ) | RAND( ) | RAND( ) |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 0.45464584925645 | 0.1824410643265 | 0.54826780459682 |
+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

When invoked with an integer argument, RAND uses that value to seed the random number generator. Each time you seed the generator with a given value, RAND will produce a repeatable series of numbers:

```
mysql> SELECT RAND(1), RAND( ), RAND( );
+-----+-----+-----+
| RAND(1 ) | RAND( ) | RAND( ) |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 0.18109050223705 | 0.75023211143001 | 0.20788908117254 |
+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

You can use **ORDER BY RAND** to randomize a set of rows or values as follows:

To understand **ORDER BY RAND** function, consider an **employee\_tbl** table, which is having the following records:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl;
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | name | work_date | daily_typing_pages |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1 | John | 2007-01-24 | 250 |
| 2 | Ram | 2007-05-27 | 220 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 | 170 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 | 100 |
| 4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 | 220 |
| 5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 | 300 |
| 5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 | 350 |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Now, use the following commands:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl ORDER BY RAND();
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | name | work_date | daily_typing_pages |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| 5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 | 300 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 | 100 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 | 170 |
| 2 | Ram | 2007-05-27 | 220 |
| 4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 | 220 |
| 5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 | 350 |
| 1 | John | 2007-01-24 | 250 |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
7 rows in set (0.01 sec)
```

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl ORDER BY RAND();
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | name | work_date | daily_typing_pages |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
```

|   |      |            |     |
|---|------|------------|-----|
| 5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 | 350 |
| 2 | Ram  | 2007-05-27 | 220 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 | 100 |
| 1 | John | 2007-01-24 | 250 |
| 4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 | 220 |
| 3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 | 170 |
| 5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 | 300 |

7 rows in set (0.00 sec)

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