


SQL - LIKE CLAUSE

<http://www.tutorialspoint.com/sql/sql-like-clause.htm>

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The SQL **LIKE** clause is used to compare a value to similar values using wildcard operators. There are two wildcards used in conjunction with the LIKE operator:

- The percent sign
- The underscore 

The percent sign represents zero, one, or multiple characters. The underscore represents a single number or character. The symbols can be used in combinations.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of % and _ is as follows:

```
SELECT FROM table_name  
WHERE column LIKE 'XXXX%'
```

or

```
SELECT FROM table_name  
WHERE column LIKE '%XXXX%'
```

or

```
SELECT FROM table_name  
WHERE column LIKE 'XXXX_'
```

or

```
SELECT FROM table_name  
WHERE column LIKE '_XXXX'
```

or

```
SELECT FROM table_name  
WHERE column LIKE '_XXXX_'
```

You can combine N number of conditions using AND or OR operators. Here, XXXX could be any numeric or string value.

Example:

Here are number of examples showing WHERE part having different LIKE clause with '%' and '_' operators:

Statement	Description
WHERE SALARY LIKE '200%'	Finds any values that start with 200
WHERE SALARY LIKE '%200%'	Finds any values that have 200 in any position
WHERE SALARY LIKE '_00%'	Finds any values that have 00 in the second and third positions
WHERE SALARY LIKE '2_%_ %'	Finds any values that start with 2 and are at least 3 characters in length
WHERE SALARY LIKE '%2'	Finds any values that end with 2

WHERE SALARY LIKE
'_2%3'

Finds any values that have a 2 in the second position and end with a 3

WHERE SALARY LIKE
'2__3'

Finds any values in a five-digit number that start with 2 and end with 3

Let us take a real example, consider the CUSTOMERS table having the following records:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00
4	Chaitali	25	Mumbai	6500.00
5	Hardik	27	Bhopal	8500.00
6	Komal	22	MP	4500.00
7	Muffy	24	Indore	10000.00

Following is an example, which would display all the records from CUSTOMERS table where SALARY starts with 200:

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS  
WHERE SALARY LIKE '200%';
```

This would produce the following result:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00

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