

SQL - TOP, LIMIT OR ROWNUM CLAUSE

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

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The SQL **TOP** clause is used to fetch a TOP N number or X percent records from a table.

Note: All the databases do not support TOP clause. For example MySQL supports **LIMIT** clause to fetch limited number of records and Oracle uses **ROWNUM** to fetch limited number of records.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of TOP clause with SELECT statement would be as follows:

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

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 on SQL server, which would fetch top 3 records from CUSTOMERS table:

```
SQL> SELECT TOP 3 * FROM CUSTOMERS;
```

This would produce the following result:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00

If you are using MySQL server, then here is an equivalent example:

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
LIMIT 3;
```

This would produce the following result:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00

If you are using Oracle server, then here is an equivalent example:

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
WHERE ROWNUM <= 3;
```

This would produce the following result:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00