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DELETE Statement

The DELETE statement allows you to delete a single record or multiple records from a table.

The syntax for the DELETE statement is:

```
DELETE FROM table  
WHERE predicates;
```

Example #1 - Simple example

Let's take a look at a simple example:

```
DELETE FROM suppliers  
WHERE supplier_name = 'IBM';
```

This would delete all records from the suppliers table where the supplier_name is IBM.

You may wish to check for the number of rows that will be deleted. You can determine the number of rows that will be deleted by running the following SQL statement **before** performing the delete.

```
SELECT count(*)  
FROM suppliers  
WHERE supplier_name = 'IBM';
```

Example #2 - More complex example

You can also perform more complicated deletes.

You may wish to delete records in one table based on values in another table. Since you can't list more than one table in the FROM clause when you are performing a delete, you can use the EXISTS clause.

For example:

```
DELETE FROM suppliers  
WHERE EXISTS  
  ( select customers.name  
    from customers
```

```
where customers.customer_id = suppliers.supplier_id
and customers.customer_name = 'IBM' );
```

This would delete all records in the suppliers table where there is a record in the customers table whose name is IBM, and the customer_id is the same as the supplier_id.

If you wish to determine the number of rows that will be deleted, you can run the following SQL statement **before** performing the delete.

```
SELECT count(*) FROM suppliers
WHERE EXISTS
( select customers.name
  from customers
  where customers.customer_id = suppliers.supplier_id
    and customers.customer_name = 'IBM' );
```

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How would I write an SQL statement to delete all records in TableA whose data in field1 & field2 DO NOT match the data in fieldx & fieldz of TableB?

Answer: You could try something like this:

```
DELETE FROM TableA
WHERE NOT EXISTS
( select *
  from TableB
  where TableA .field1 = TableB.fieldx
    and TableA .field2 = TableB.fieldz );
```