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## MIN Function

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The MIN function returns the minimum value of an expression.

The syntax for the MIN function is:

```
SELECT MIN(expression )  
FROM tables  
WHERE predicates;
```

### Simple Example

For example, you might wish to know the minimum salary of all employees.

```
SELECT MIN(salary) as "Lowest salary"  
FROM employees;
```

In this example, we've aliased the min(salary) field as "Lowest salary". As a result, "Lowest salary" will display as the field name when the result set is returned.

### Example using GROUP BY

In some cases, you will be required to use a GROUP BY clause with the MIN function.

For example, you could also use the MIN function to return the name of each department and the minimum salary in the department.

```
SELECT department, MIN(salary) as "Lowest salary"  
FROM employees  
GROUP BY department;
```

Because you have listed one column in your SELECT statement that is not encapsulated in the MIN function, you must use a GROUP BY clause. The department field must, therefore, be listed in the GROUP BY section.