

Modifying A Table

Objectives

- Explain why it is important to be able to modify a table
- Explain the use and provide an example for each of the DDL statements ALTER, DROP, RENAME, and TRUNCATE and describe the effect each has on tables and columns
- Construct a query and execute the ALTER TABLE commands ADD, MODIFY, and DROP
- Explain the rationale for using TRUNCATE vs. DELETE for tables
- Add a comment to a table using the COMMENT ON TABLE command
- Name the changes that can and cannot be made to modify a column
- Explain when and why the SET UNUSED statement is advantageous.

Try It / Solve It

Before beginning the practice exercises, execute a DESCRIBE for each of the following tables: o_employees and o_jobs. These tables will be used in the exercises. You will need to know which columns do not allow null values.

1. Why is it important to be able to modify a table?

2. CREATE a table called Artists. Add the following to the table:

- artist ID
- first name
- last name
- band name
- email
- hourly rate
- song ID from d_songs table

a. INSERT one artist from the d_songs table.

b. INSERT one artist of your own choosing; leave song_id blank.

c. Give an example how each of the following may be used on the table that you have created:

- i. ALTER TABLE
- ii. DROP TABLE
- iii. RENAME TABLE
- iv. TRUNCATE
- v. COMMENT ON TABLE

3. In your o_employees table, enter a new column called "Termination." The data type for the new column should be VARCHAR2. Set the DEFAULT for this column as SYSDATE to appear as character data in the format: February 20th, 2003.

4. Create a new column in the o_employees table called start_date. Use the TIMESTAMP WITH LOCAL TIME ZONE as the data type.

5. Truncate the o_job_description table. Then do a SELECT * statement.
Are the columns still there? Is the data still there?
6. What is the distinction between TRUNCATE, DELETE and DROP for tables?
7. List the changes that can and cannot be made to a column.
8. Add the following comment to the o_jobs table:
"New job description added"
View the data dictionary to view your comments.
9. Rename the o_jobs table to o_job_description.