

ALTER

The ALTER TABLE statement is used to change the definition or structure of an existing table

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"  
[Specify Actions];
```

Following actions can be performed

- Columns – Add, Delete (Drop), Modify or Rename
- Constraints – Add, Drop
- Index – Add, Drop

COLUMN – ADD & DROP

The basic syntax of an ALTER TABLE command to add/drop a **Column** in an existing table is as follows.

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"  
ADD "column_name" "Data Type";
```

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"  
DROP "column_name";
```

COLUMN – MODIFY & RENAME

The basic syntax of an ALTER TABLE command to Modify/Rename a **Column** in an existing table is as follows.

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"
```

```
ALTER COLUMN "column_name" TYPE "New Data Type";
```

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"
```

```
RENAME COLUMN "column 1" TO "column 2";
```

CONSTRAINT – ADD & DROP

The basic syntax of an ALTER TABLE command to add/drop a **Constraint** on a existing table is as follows.

Syntax

1. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ALTER COLUMN "column_name" SET NOT NULL;
2. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ALTER COLUMN "column_name" DROP NOT NULL;
3. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ADD CONSTRAINT "column_name" CHECK ("column_name">=100);
4. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ADD PRIMARY KEY ("column_name");
5. ALTER TABLE "child_table" ADD CONSTRAINT "child_column" FOREIGN KEY ("parent column") REFERENCES "parent table";