

# Learn Apex – SOQL syntax

Salesforce Object Query language SOQL syntax is similar to SQL language. In SOQL, SELECT statement is used to specify the source object to retrieve data.

## SOQL Syntax

```
SELECT fields
FROM Object
WHERE Condition
Ordering LIMIT
FOR VIEW Or FOR REFERENCE
OFFSET
UPDATE VIEWSTAT
```

From the above SOQL syntax we have many things to observe and understand. SELECT, fields, FROM and Object are required and all others are optional. Let us understand in detail.

Name	Description
Fields	This denotes the API name of the fields of an object
Object	This denotes the custom object or standard object.
Condition	This is use to filter records and it is optional.
Ordering	This is used for ordering the results and it is optional in the query.
Limit	It is used to limit the number of fetched records.
FOR VIEW	This displays last viewed date for fetched records.
FOR REFERENCE	This displays last reference date for fetched records.
OFFSET	It is used to to fetch the starting row.
UPDATE VIEW STATE	This updates the article's view statistics for fetched records.

The [API names of the fields](#) are used in the SELECT statement. In our upcoming Salesforce developer tutorials we will learn about various SOQL syntax like Condition expression syntax using WHERE clause and field expression syntax.

## Conclusion

In this [Salesforce Developer Tutorial](#), we learned about Apex SOQL syntax.

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## Learn Apex - SOSL