



# SQL Queries for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Data Manipulation in SQL (3rd Edition)

By John L. Viescas, Michael J. Hernandez

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The #1 Easy, Common-Sense Guide to SQL Queries—Updated for Today’s Databases, Standards, and Challenges

*SQL Queries for Mere Mortals*® has earned worldwide praise as the clearest, simplest tutorial on writing effective SQL queries. The authors have updated this hands-on classic to reflect new SQL standards and database applications and teach valuable new techniques.

Step by step, John L. Viescas and Michael J. Hernandez guide you through creating reliable queries for virtually any modern SQL-based database. They demystify all aspects of SQL query writing, from simple data selection and filtering to joining multiple tables and modifying sets of data.

Three brand-new chapters teach you how to solve a wide range of challenging SQL problems. You’ll learn how to write queries that apply multiple complex conditions on one table, perform sophisticated logical evaluations, and think “outside the box” using unlinked tables.

Coverage includes

- Getting started: understanding what relational databases are, and ensuring that your database structures are sound
  - SQL basics: using SELECT statements, creating expressions, sorting information with ORDER BY, and filtering data using WHERE
  - Summarizing and grouping data with GROUP BY and HAVING clauses
  - Drawing data from multiple tables: using INNER JOIN, OUTER JOIN, and UNION operators, and working with subqueries
  - Modifying data sets with UPDATE, INSERT, and DELETE statements
- Advanced queries: complex NOT and AND, conditions, if-then-else using CASE, unlinked tables, driver tables, and more

Practice all you want with downloadable sample databases for today’s versions

of Microsoft Office Access, Microsoft SQL Server, and the open source MySQL database. Whether you're a DBA, developer, user, or student, there's no better way to master SQL.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The good books show you how to do something. The great books enable you to think clearly about how you can do it. This book is the latter. To really maximize the potential of your database, thinking about data as a set is required and the authors' accessible writing really brings out the practical applications of SQL and the set-based thinking behind it.

-- Ben Clothier, Lead Developer at IT Impact, Inc., co-author of *Professional Access 2013 Programming*, and Microsoft Access MVP

Unless you are working at a very advanced level, this is the only SQL book you will ever need. The authors have taken the mystery out of complex queries and explained principles and techniques with such clarity that a "Mere Mortal" will indeed be empowered to perform the superhuman. Do not walk past this book!

--Graham Mandeno, Database Consultant

It's beyond brilliant! I have been working with SQL for a really long time and the techniques presented in this book exposed some of the bad habits I picked up over the years in my learning process. I wish I had learned these techniques a long time ago and saved myself all the headaches of learning SQL the hard way. Who said you can't teach old dogs new tricks?

--Leo (theDBGuy), Utter Access Moderator and Microsoft Access MVP

I learned SQL primarily from the first and second editions of this book, and I am pleased to see a third edition of this book so that others can continue to benefit from its organized presentation of the language. Starting from how to design your tables so that SQL can be effective (a common problem for database beginners), and then continuing through the various aspects of SQL construction and capabilities, the reader can become a moderate expert upon completing the book and its samples. Learning how to convert a question in English into a meaningful SQL statement will greatly facilitate your mastery of the language. Numerous examples from real life will help you visualize how to use SQL to answer the questions about the data in your database. Just one of the "watch out for this trap" items will save you more than the cost of the book when you avoid that problem when writing your queries. I highly recommend this book if you want to tap the full potential of your database.

--Kenneth D. Snell, Ph.D., Database Designer/Programmer

I don't think they do this in public schools any more, and it is a shame, but do you remember in the seventh and eighth grades when you learned to diagram a sentence? Those of you who do may no longer remember how you did it, but all of you do write better sentences because of it. John Viescas and Mike Hernandez must have remembered because they take everyday English queries and literally translate them into SQL. This is an important book for all database designers. It takes the complexity of mathematical Set Theory and of First Order Predicate Logic, as outlined in E. F. Codd's original treatise on relational database design, and makes it easy for anyone to understand. If you want an elementary- through intermediate-level course on SQL, this is the one book that is a requirement, no matter how many others you buy.

--Arvin Meyer, MCP, MVP

*SQL Queries for Mere Mortals, Third Edition*, provides a step-by-step, easy-to-read introduction to writing SQL queries. It includes hundreds of examples with detailed explanations. This book provides the tools you

need to understand, modify, and create SQL queries.

--Keith W. Hare, Convenor, ISO/IEC JTC1 SC32 WG3 International SQL Standards Committee

Even in this day of wizards and code generators, successful database developers still require a sound knowledge of Structured Query Language (SQL, the standard language for communicating with most database systems). In this book, John and Mike do a marvelous job of making what's usually a dry and difficult subject come alive, presenting the material with humor in a logical manner, with plenty of relevant examples. I would say that this book should feature prominently in the collection on the bookshelf of all serious developers, except that I'm sure it'll get so much use that it won't spend much time on the shelf!

--Doug Steele, Microsoft Access Developer and author

I highly recommend *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals* to anyone working with data. John makes it easy to learn one of the most critical aspects of working with data: creating queries. Queries are the primary tool for selecting, sorting, and reporting data. They can compensate for table structure, new reporting requirements, and incorporate new data sources. *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals* uses clear, easy to understand discussions and examples to take readers through the basics and into complex problems. From novice to expert, you will find this book to be an invaluable reference as you can apply the concepts to a myriad of scenarios, regardless of the program.

--Teresa Hennig, Microsoft MVP-Access, and lead author of several Access books, including *Professional Access 2013 Programming* (Wrox)

#### About the Author

**John L. Viescas** is an independent database consultant with more than 45 years of experience. He began his career as a systems analyst, designing large database applications for IBM mainframe systems. He spent 6 years at Applied Data Research in Dallas, Texas, where he directed a staff of more than 30 people and was responsible for research, product development, and customer support of database products for IBM mainframe computers. While working at Applied Data Research, John completed a degree in business finance at the University of Texas at Dallas, graduating cum laude.

John joined Tandem Computers, Inc., in 1988, where he was responsible for the development and implementation of database marketing programs in Tandem's U.S. Western Sales region. He developed and delivered technical seminars on Tandem's relational database management system, NonStop SQL. John wrote his first book, *A Quick Reference Guide to SQL* (Microsoft Press, 1989), as a research project to document the similarities in the syntax among the ANSI-86 SQL standard, IBM's DB2, Microsoft's SQL Server, Oracle Corporation's Oracle, and Tandem's NonStop SQL. He wrote the first edition of *Running Microsoft Access* (Microsoft Press, 1992) while on sabbatical from Tandem. He has since written four editions of *Running*, three editions of *Microsoft Office Access Inside Out* (Microsoft Press, 2003, 2007, and 2010—the successor to the *Running* series), and *Building Microsoft Access Applications* (Microsoft Press, 2005).

John formed his own company in 1993. He provides information systems management consulting for a variety of small to large businesses around the world, with a specialty in the Microsoft Access and SQL Server database management products. He maintains offices in Nashua, New Hampshire, and Paris, France. He has been recognized as a "Most Valuable Professional" (MVP) since 1993 by Microsoft Product Support Services for his assistance with technical questions on public support forums. He set a landmark 20 consecutive years as an MVP in 2013.

You can visit John's Web site at [www.viescas.com](http://www.viescas.com) or contact him by e-mail at [john@viescas.com](mailto:john@viescas.com).

**Michael J. Hernandez** has been an independent relational database consultant specializing in relational database design. He has more than 20 years of experience in the technology industry, developing database applications for a wide variety of clients. He's been a contributing author to a wide variety of magazine columns, white papers, books, and periodicals, and is coauthor of the best-selling *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals*.

Mike has been a top-rated and noted technical trainer for the government, the military, the private sector, and companies throughout the United States. He has spoken at numerous national and international conferences, and has consistently been a top-rated speaker and presenter.

Aside from his technical background, Mike has a diverse set of skills and interests that he also pursues, ranging from the artistic to the metaphysical. His greatest interest is still the guitar, as he's been a practicing guitarist for more than 40 years and played professionally for 15 years. He's also a working actor, a great cook, loves to teach (writing, public speaking, music), has a gift for bad puns, and even reads Tarot cards.

He says he's never going to retire, per se, but rather just change whatever it is he's doing whenever he finally gets tired of it and move on to something else that interests him.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Edgar Hightower:**

The actual book *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Data Manipulation in SQL (3rd Edition)* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Data Manipulation in SQL (3rd Edition)* is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

#### **Roger Alford:**

The book untitled *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Data Manipulation in SQL (3rd Edition)* contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

#### **Miguel Lynch:**

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *SQL Queries for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Data Manipulation in SQL (3rd Edition)* can be the reply, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So

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**Harold Esparza:**

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