



Deleting data

SQL DELETE



Deleting some data from a table

In a database, the data may have to be deleted. For instance, the data could be wrong or simply outdated. If we don't need any trace of the data ever being in the table, we use the SQL DELETE statement.

```
DELETE FROM <table> WHERE <col>=<value>;
```

As with the UPDATE statement, it is imperative to include the WHERE clause, since leaving it out would delete all rows from the table.

Revisiting the cars table

Remember our car database?

```
sqlite> select * from cars;
make          color          license
-----
Volvo         Grey           AAA 111
Honda         Blue           ABC 124
Porsche       Yellow         BBC 666
Ferrari       Red            FST 667
sqlite>
```

We want to delete and forget all about the Honda. Let's do it!

```
DELETE FROM cars WHERE licensenumber = 'ABC 124';
```

Why did we choose LicenseNumber for criteria?

The LicenseNumber (as the observant student has noticed) is `PRIMARY KEY`. Remember that a property for `PRIMARY KEY` columns was that their values must be unique.

If we had several cars whose `color` was Blue, then the following would have deleted every blue car in the table:

```
DELETE FROM cars WHERE color='Blue';
```

Once again, be very cautious when performing `UPDATE` and `DELETE` statements!

Read

http://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_delete.asp

What's next?

Now that we know how to fetch, update and delete data, we're going to look at how to `INSERT` new data into a table.