
Oracle9i: PL/SQL Fundamentals

Student Guide

40055GC11
Production 1.1
November 2001
D34069

ORACLE®

Authors

Priya Nathan

Technical Contributors and Reviewers

Anna Atkinson

Cesljas Zarco

Chaya Rao

Coley William

Daniel Gabel

Dr. Christoph Burandt

Helen Robertson

Judy Brink

Laszlo Czinkoczki

Laura Pezzini

Linda Boldt

Marco Verbeek

Nagavalli Pataballa

Robert Squires

Sarah Jones

Stefan Lindblad

Sue Onraet

Susan Dee

Publisher

May Lonn Chan-Villareal

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 1999, 2000, 2001. All rights reserved.

This documentation contains proprietary information of Oracle Corporation. It is provided under a license agreement containing restrictions on use and disclosure and is also protected by copyright law. Reverse engineering of the software is prohibited. If this documentation is delivered to a U.S. Government Agency of the Department of Defense, then it is delivered with Restricted Rights and the following legend is applicable:

Restricted Rights Legend

Use, duplication or disclosure by the Government is subject to restrictions for commercial computer software and shall be deemed to be Restricted Rights software under Federal law, as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of DFARS 252.227-7013, Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software (October 1988).

This material or any portion of it may not be copied in any form or by any means without the express prior written permission of Oracle Corporation. Any other copying is a violation of copyright law and may result in civil and/or criminal penalties.

If this documentation is delivered to a U.S. Government Agency not within the Department of Defense, then it is delivered with "Restricted Rights," as defined in FAR 52.227-14, Rights in Data-General, including Alternate III (June 1987).

The information in this document is subject to change without notice. If you find any problems in the documentation, please report them in writing to Education Products, Oracle Corporation, 500 Oracle Parkway, Box SB-6, Redwood Shores, CA 94065. Oracle Corporation does not warrant that this document is error-free.

All references to Oracle and Oracle products are trademarks or registered trademarks of Oracle Corporation.

All other products or company names are used for identification purposes only, and may be trademarks of their respective owners.

Contents

Preface

Curriculum Map

Introduction

- Course Objectives 1-2
- About PL/SQL 1-3
- PL/SQL Environment 1-4
- Benefits of PL/SQL 1-5
- Summary 1-10

1 Declaring Variables

- Objectives 1-2
- PL/SQL Block Structure 1-3
- Executing Statements and PL/SQL Blocks 1-4
- Block Types 1-5
- Program Constructs 1-6
- Use of Variables 1-7
- Handling Variables in PL/SQL 1-8
- Types of Variables 1-9
- Using iSQL*Plus Variables Within PL/SQL Blocks 1-10
- Types of Variables 1-11
- Declaring PL/SQL Variables 1-12
- Guidelines for Declaring PL/SQL Variables 1-13
- Naming Rules 1-14
- Variable Initialization and Keywords 1-15
- Scalar Data Types 1-17
- Base Scalar Data Types 1-18
- Scalar Variable Declarations 1-22
- The %TYPE Attribute 1-23
- Declaring Variables with the %TYPE Attribute 1-24
- Declaring Boolean Variables 1-25
- Composite Data Types 1-26
- LOB Data Type Variables 1-27
- Bind Variables 1-28
- Using Bind Variables 1-30
- Referencing Non-PL/SQL Variables 1-31
- DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE 1-32
- Summary 1-33
- Practice 1 Overview 1-35

2 Writing Executable Statements

- Objectives 2-2
- PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines 2-3
- Identifiers 2-5
- PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines 2-6
- Commenting Code 2-7
- SQL Functions in PL/SQL 2-8
- SQL Functions in PL/SQL: Examples 2-9
- Data Type Conversion 2-10
- Nested Blocks and Variable Scope 2-13
- Identifier Scope 2-15
- Qualify an Identifier 2-16
- Determining Variable Scope 2-17
- Operators in PL/SQL 2-18
- Programming Guidelines 2-20
- Indenting Code 2-21
- Summary 2-22
- Practice 2 Overview 2-23

3 Interacting with the Oracle Server

- Objectives 3-2
- SQL Statements in PL/SQL 3-3
- SELECT Statements in PL/SQL 3-4
- Retrieving Data in PL/SQL 3-7
- Naming Conventions 3-9
- Manipulating Data Using PL/SQL 3-10
- Inserting Data 3-11
- Updating Data 3-12
- Deleting Data 3-13
- Merging Rows 3-14
- Naming Conventions 3-16
- SQL Cursor 3-18
- SQL Cursor Attributes 3-19
- Transaction Control Statements 3-21
- Summary 3-22
- Practice 3 Overview 3-24

4 Writing Control Structures

- Objectives 4-2
- Controlling PL/SQL Flow of Execution 4-3
- IF Statements 4-4
 - Simple IF Statements 4-5
 - Compound IF Statements 4-6
 - IF-THEN-ELSE Statement Execution Flow 4-7
 - IF-THEN-ELSE Statements 4-8
 - IF-THEN-ELSIF Statement Execution Flow 4-9
 - IF-THEN-ELSIF Statements 4-11
- CASE Expressions 4-12
 - CASE Expressions: Example 4-13
- Handling Nulls 4-15
- Logic Tables 4-16
- Boolean Conditions 4-17
- Iterative Control: LOOP Statements 4-18
 - Basic Loops 4-19
 - WHILE Loops 4-21
 - FOR Loops 4-23
 - Guidelines While Using Loops 4-26
- Nested Loops and Labels 4-27
- Summary 4-29
- Practice 4 Overview 4-30

5 Working with Composite Data Types

- Objectives 5-2
- Composite Data Types 5-3
 - PL/SQL Records 5-4
 - Creating a PL/SQL Record 5-5
 - PL/SQL Record Structure 5-7
 - The %ROWTYPE Attribute 5-8
 - Advantages of Using %ROWTYPE 5-10
 - The %ROWTYPE Attribute 5-11
- INDEX BY Tables 5-13
 - Creating an INDEX BY Table 5-14
 - INDEX BY Table Structure 5-15
 - Creating an INDEX BY Table 5-16
 - Using INDEX BY Table Methods 5-17
 - INDEX BY Table of Records 5-18
 - Example of INDEX BY Table of Records 5-19
- Summary 5-20
- Practice 5 Overview 5-21

6 Writing Explicit Cursors

- Objectives 6-2
- About Cursors 6-3
- Explicit Cursor Functions 6-4
- Controlling Explicit Cursors 6-5
- Declaring the Cursor 6-9
- Opening the Cursor 6-11
- Fetching Data from the Cursor 6-12
- Closing the Cursor 6-14
- Explicit Cursor Attributes 6-15
- The %ISOPEN Attribute 6-16
- Controlling Multiple Fetches 6-17
- The %NOTFOUND and %ROWCOUNT Attributes 6-18
- Example 6-20
- Cursors and Records 6-21
- Cursor FOR Loops 6-22
- Cursor FOR Loops Using Subqueries 6-24
- Summary 6-26
- Practice 6 Overview 6-27

7 Advanced Explicit Cursor Concepts

- Objectives 7-2
- Cursors with Parameters 7-3
- The FOR UPDATE Clause 7-5
- The WHERE CURRENT OF Clause 7-7
- Cursors with Subqueries 7-9
- Summary 7-10
- Practice 7 Overview 7-11

8 Handling Exceptions

- Objectives 8-2
- Handling Exceptions with PL/SQL 8-3
- Handling Exceptions 8-4
- Exception Types 8-5
- Trapping Exceptions 8-6
- Trapping Exceptions Guidelines 8-7
- Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Errors 8-8

Predefined Exceptions 8-11
Trapping Nonpredefined Oracle Server Errors 8-12
Nonpredefined Error 8-13
Functions for Trapping Exceptions 8-14
Trapping User-Defined Exceptions 8-16
User-Defined Exceptions 8-17
Calling Environments 8-18
Propagating Exceptions 8-19
The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure 8-20
RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR 8-22
Summary 8-23
Practice 8 Overview 8-24

A Practice Solutions

B Table Description and Data

C REF Cursors

Additional Practices

Additional Practice Solutions

Index

Preface

Profile

Before You Begin This Course

Before you begin this course, you should have thorough knowledge of SQL, iSQL*Plus, and working experience developing applications. Required prerequisites are *Introduction to Oracle9i: SQL*, or *Introduction to Oracle9i for Experienced SQL Users*.

How This Course Is Organized

Oracle9i: PL/SQL Fundamentals is an instructor-led course featuring lectures and hands-on exercises. Online demonstrations and practice sessions reinforce the concepts and skills that are introduced.

Related Publications

Oracle Publications

Title	Part Number
<i>Oracle9i Application Developer's Guide-Fundamentals</i>	A88876-02
<i>Oracle9i Application Developer's Guide-Large Objects</i>	A88879-01
<i>Oracle9i Supplied PL/SQL Packages and Type Reference</i>	A89852-02
<i>PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference</i>	A89856-01

Additional Publications

- System release bulletins
- Installation and user's guides
- read.me files
- International Oracle User's Group (IOUG) articles
- *Oracle Magazine*

Typographic Conventions

Following are two lists of typographical conventions that are used specifically within text or within code.

Typographic Conventions Within Text

Convention	Object or Term	Example
Uppercase	Commands, functions, column names, table names, PL/SQL objects, schemas	Use the SELECT command to view information stored in the LAST_NAME column of the EMPLOYEES table.
Lowercase,	Filenames, syntax variables, usernames, passwords	where: <i>role</i> is the name of the role italic to be created.
Initial cap	Trigger and button names	Assign a When-Validate-Item trigger to the ORD block. Choose Cancel.
Italic	Books, names of courses and manuals, and emphasized words or phrases	For more information on the subject, see <i>Oracle9i Server SQL Language Reference Manual</i> . Do <i>not</i> save changes to the database.
Quotation marks	Lesson module titles referenced within a course	This subject is covered in Lesson 3, “Working with Objects.”

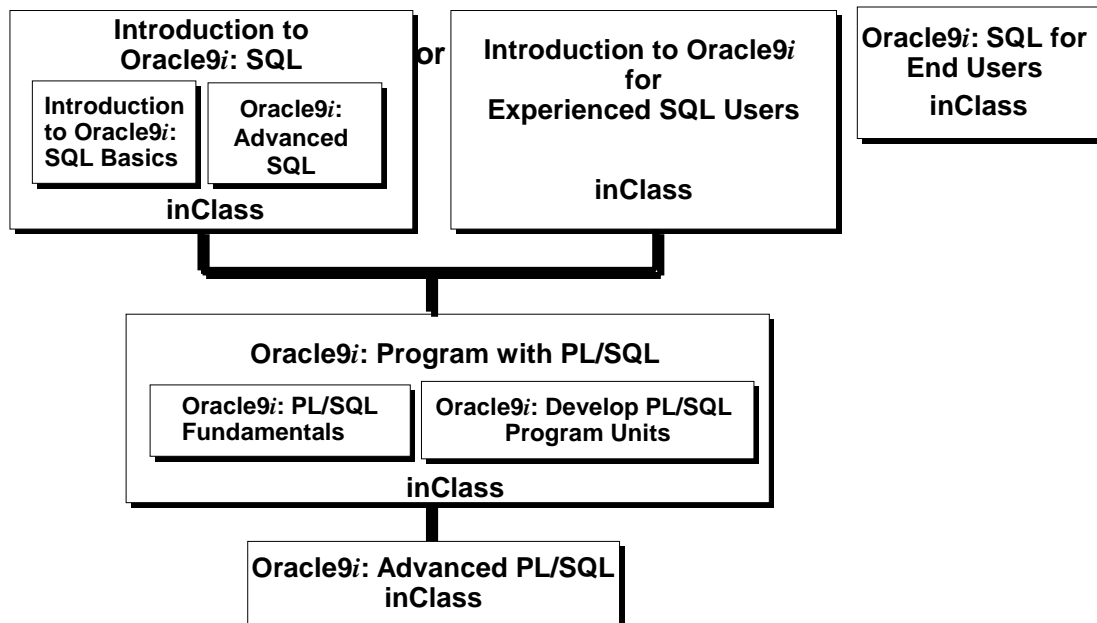
Typographic Conventions (continued)

Typographic Conventions Within Code

Convention	Object or Term	Example
Uppercase	Commands, functions	<code>SELECT userid FROM emp;</code>
Lowercase, italic	Syntax variables	<code>CREATE ROLE <i>role</i>;</code>
Initial cap	Forms triggers	<code>Form module: ORD Trigger level: S_ITEM.QUANTITY item Trigger name: When-Validate-Item . . .</code>
Lowercase	Column names, table names, filenames, PL/SQL objects	<code>. . . OG_ACTIVATE_LAYER (OG_GET_LAYER ('prod_pie_layer')) . . . SELECT last_name FROM emp;</code>
Bold	Text that must be entered by a user	<code>DROP USER scott;</code>

Curriculum Map

Languages Curriculum for Oracle9i



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Integrated Languages Curriculum

Introduction to Oracle9i: SQL consists of two modules, *Introduction to Oracle9i: SQL Basics* and *Oracle9i: Advanced SQL*. *Introduction to Oracle9i: SQL Basics* covers creating database structures and storing, retrieving, and manipulating data in a relational database. *Oracle9i: Advanced SQL* covers advanced SELECT statements, Oracle SQL and iSQL*Plus Reporting.

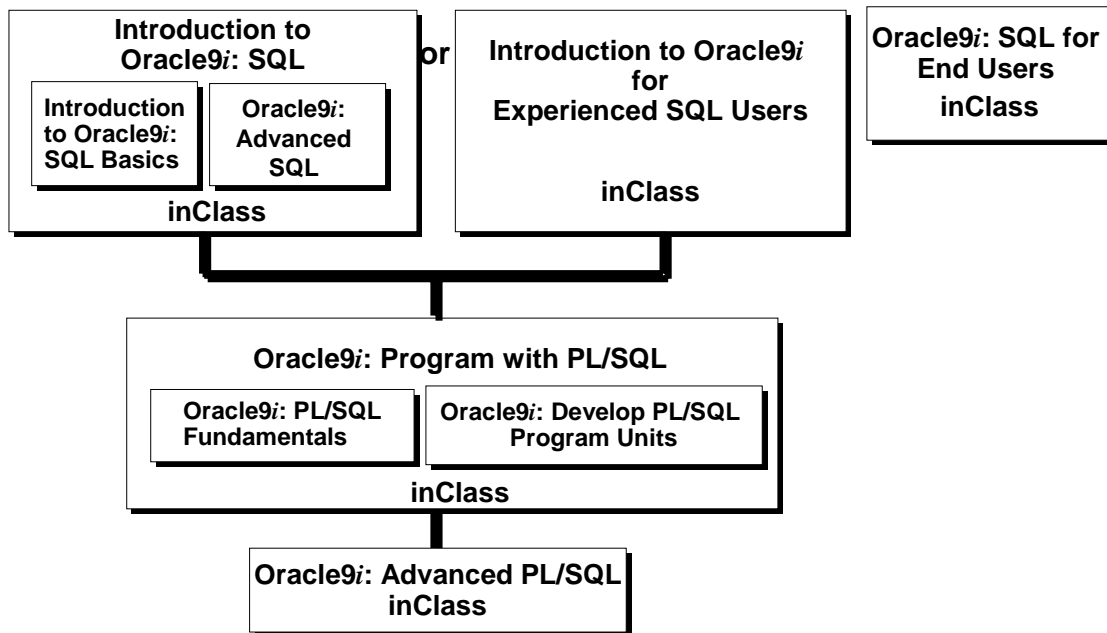
For people who have worked with other relational databases and have knowledge of SQL, another course, called *Introduction to Oracle9i for Experienced SQL Users* is offered. This course covers the SQL statements that are not part of ANSI SQL but are specific to Oracle.

Oracle9i: Program with PL/SQL consists of two modules, *Oracle9i: PL/SQL Fundamentals* and *Oracle9i: Develop PL/SQL Program Units*. *Oracle9i: PL/SQL Fundamentals* covers PL/SQL basics including the PL/SQL language structure, flow of execution and interface with SQL. *Oracle9i: Develop PL/SQL Program Units* covers creating stored procedures, functions, packages, and triggers as well as maintaining and debugging PL/SQL program code.

Oracle9i: SQL for End Users is directed towards individuals with little programming background and covers basic SQL statements. This course is for end users who need to know some basic SQL programming.

Oracle9i: Advanced PL/SQL is appropriate for individuals who have experience in PL/SQL programming and covers coding efficiency topics, object-oriented programming, working with external code, and the advanced features of the Oracle supplied packages.

Languages Curriculum for Oracle9i



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Integrated Languages Curriculum

The slide lists various modules and courses that are available in the languages curriculum. The following table lists the modules and courses with their equivalent TBTs.

Course or Module	Equivalent TBT
<i>Introduction to Oracle9i: SQL Basics</i>	<i>Oracle SQL: Basic SELECT Statements</i> <i>Oracle SQL: Data Retrieval Techniques</i> <i>Oracle SQL: DML and DDL</i>
<i>Oracle9i: Advanced SQL</i>	<i>Oracle SQL and SQL*Plus: Advanced SELECT Statements</i> <i>Oracle SQL and SQL*Plus: SQL*Plus and Reporting</i>
<i>Introduction to Oracle9i for Experienced SQL Users</i>	<i>Oracle SQL Specifics: Retrieving and Formatting Data</i> <i>Oracle SQL Specifics: Creating and Managing Database Objects</i>
<i>Oracle9i: PL/SQL Fundamentals</i>	<i>PL/SQL: Basics</i>
<i>Oracle9i: Develop PL/SQL Program Units</i>	<i>PL/SQL: Procedures, Functions, and Packages</i> <i>PL/SQL: Database Programming</i>
<i>Oracle9i: SQL for End Users</i>	<i>SQL for End Users: Part 1</i> <i>SQL for End Users: Part 2</i>
<i>Oracle9i: Advanced PL/SQL</i>	<i>Advanced PL/SQL: Implementation and Advanced Features</i> <i>Advanced PL/SQL: Design Considerations and Object Types</i>

I

Overview of PL/SQL

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Course Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Describe the purpose of PL/SQL**
- **Describe the use of PL/SQL for the developer as well as the DBA**
- **Explain the benefits of PL/SQL**

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this course, you are introduced to the features and benefits of PL/SQL. You learn how to access the database using PL/SQL.

About PL/SQL

- **PL/SQL is the procedural extension to SQL with design features of programming languages.**
- **Data manipulation and query statements of SQL are included within procedural units of code.**

ORACLE

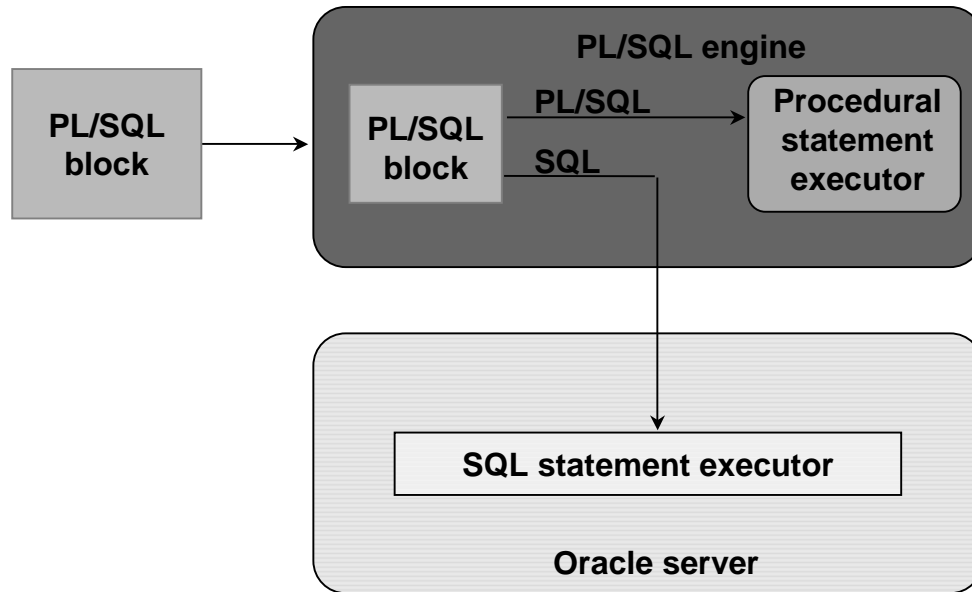
Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

About PL/SQL

Procedural Language/SQL (PL/SQL) is Oracle Corporation's procedural language extension to SQL, the standard data access language for relational databases. PL/SQL offers modern software engineering features such as data encapsulation, exception handling, information hiding, object orientation, and brings state-of-the-art programming to the Oracle Server and toolset.

PL/SQL incorporates many of the advanced features of programming languages that were designed during the 1970s and 1980s. It allows the data manipulation and query statements of SQL to be included in block-structured and procedural units of code, making PL/SQL a powerful transaction processing language. With PL/SQL, you can use SQL statements to finesse Oracle data, and PL/SQL control statements to process the data.

PL/SQL Environment



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Environment

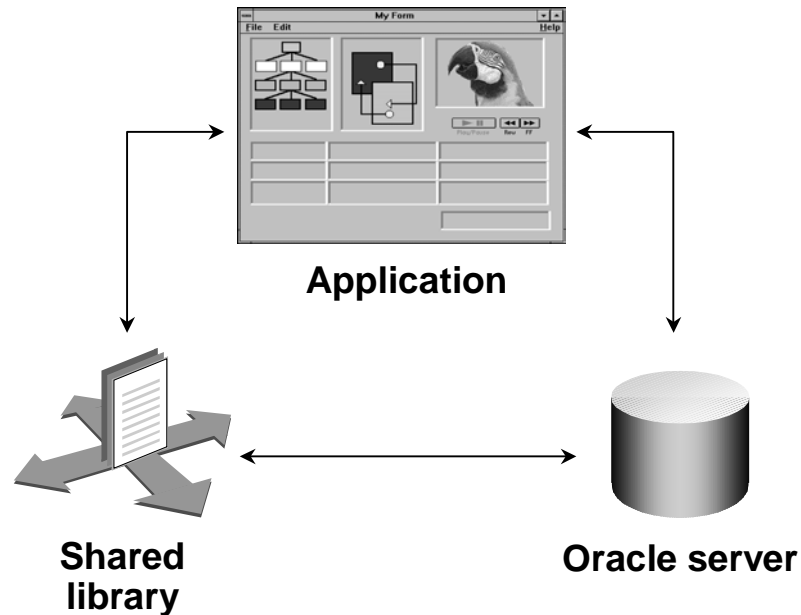
PL/SQL is not an Oracle product in its own right; it is a technology used by the Oracle server and by certain Oracle tools. Blocks of PL/SQL are passed to and processed by a PL/SQL engine, which may reside within the tool or within the Oracle server. The engine that is used depends on where the PL/SQL block is being invoked from.

When you submit PL/SQL blocks from a Oracle precompiler such as Pro*C or Pro*Cobol program, user-exit, iSQL*Plus, or Server Manager, the PL/SQL engine in the Oracle Server processes them. It separates the SQL statements and sends them individually to the SQL statements executor.

A single transfer is required to send the block from the application to the Oracle Server, thus improving performance, especially in a client-server network. PL/SQL code can also be stored in the Oracle Server as subprograms that can be referenced by any number of applications connected to the database.

Benefits of PL/SQL

Integration



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Benefits of PL/SQL

Integration

PL/SQL plays a central role in both the Oracle server (through stored procedures, stored functions, database triggers, and packages) and Oracle development tools (through Oracle Developer component triggers).

Oracle Forms Developer, Oracle Reports Developer, and Oracle Graphics Developer applications make use of shared libraries that hold code (procedures and functions) and can be accessed locally or remotely.

SQL data types can also be used in PL/SQL. Combined with the direct access that SQL provides, these shared data types integrate PL/SQL with the Oracle server data dictionary. PL/SQL bridges the gap between convenient access to database technology and the need for procedural programming capabilities.

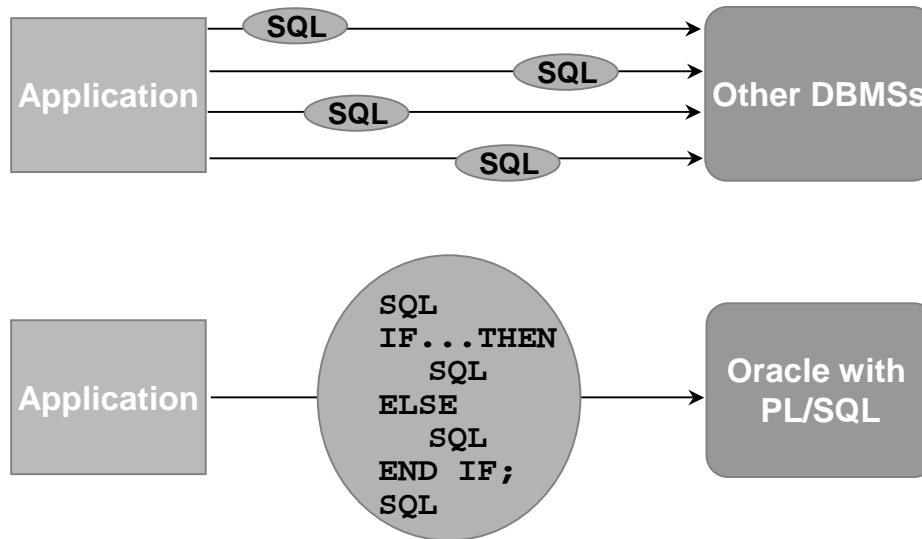
PL/SQL in Oracle Tools

Many Oracle tools, including Oracle Developer, have their own PL/SQL engine, which is independent of the engine present in the Oracle Server.

The engine filters out SQL statements and sends them individually to the SQL statement executor in the Oracle server. It processes the remaining procedural statements in the procedural statement executor, which is in the PL/SQL engine.

Benefits of PL/SQL

Improved performance



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Benefits of PL/SQL (continued)

PL/SQL in Oracle Tools (continued)

The procedural statement executor processes data that is local to the application (that is, data already inside the client environment, rather than in the database). This reduces the work that is sent to the Oracle server and the number of memory cursors that are required.

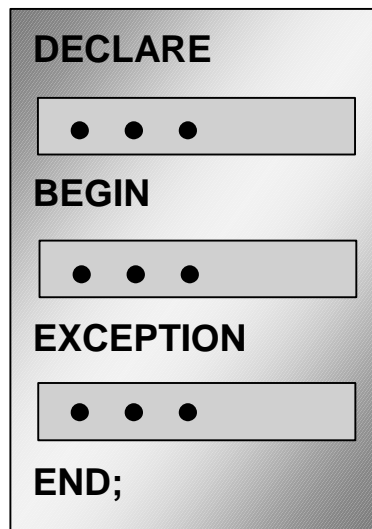
Improved Performance

PL/SQL can improve the performance of an application. The benefits differ depending on the execution environment.

- PL/SQL can be used to group SQL statements together within a single block and to send the entire block to the server in a single call, thereby reducing networking traffic. Without PL/SQL, the SQL statements are sent to the Oracle server one at a time. Each SQL statement results in another call to the Oracle server and higher performance overhead. In a networked environment, the overhead can become significant. As the slide illustrates, if the application is SQL intensive, you can use PL/SQL blocks and subprograms to group SQL statements before sending them to the Oracle server for execution.
- PL/SQL can also operate with Oracle Server application development tools such as Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports. By adding procedural processing power to these tools, PL/SQL enhances performance.

Benefits of PL/SQL

Modularize program development



ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Benefits of PL/SQL (continued)

Improved Performance (continued)

Note: Procedures and functions that are declared as part of a Oracle Forms or Reports Developer application are distinct from those stored in the database, although their general structure is the same. Stored subprograms are database objects and are stored in the data dictionary. They can be accessed by any number of applications, including Oracle Forms or Reports Developer applications.

You can take advantage of the procedural capabilities of PL/SQL, which are not available in SQL.

PL/SQL Block Structure

Every unit of PL/SQL comprises one or more blocks. These blocks can be entirely separate or nested one within another. The basic units (procedures, functions, and anonymous blocks) that make up a PL/SQL program are logical blocks, which can contain any number of nested subblocks. Therefore, one block can represent a small part of another block, which in turn can be part of the whole unit of code.

Modularized Program Development

- Group logically related statements within blocks.
- Nest subblocks inside larger blocks to build powerful programs.

Benefits of PL/SQL

- **PL/SQL is portable.**
- **You can declare variables.**

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Benefits of PL/SQL (continued)

Modularized Program Development (continued)

- Break down a complex problem into a set of manageable, well-defined, logical modules and implement the modules with blocks.
- Place reusable PL/SQL code in libraries to be shared between Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports applications or store it in an Oracle server to make it accessible to any application that can interact with an Oracle database.

Portability

- Because PL/SQL is native to the Oracle server, you can move programs to any host environment (operating system or platform) that supports the Oracle server and PL/SQL. In other words, PL/SQL programs can run anywhere the Oracle server can run; you do not need to tailor them to each new environment.
- You can also move code between the Oracle server and your application. You can write portable program packages and create libraries that can be reused in different environments.

Benefits of PL/SQL

- **You can program with procedural language control structures.**
- **PL/SQL can handle errors.**

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Benefits of PL/SQL (continued)

Procedural Language Control Structures:

Procedural Language Control Structures allow you to do the following:

- Execute a sequence of statements conditionally
- Execute a sequence of statements iteratively in a loop
- Process individually the rows returned by a multiple-row query with an explicit cursor

Errors:

The Error handling functionality in PL/SQL allows you to do the following:

- Process Oracle server errors with exception-handling routines
- Declare user-defined error conditions and process them with exception-handling routines

Summary

- **PL/SQL is an extension to SQL.**
- **Blocks of PL/SQL code are passed to and processed by a PL/SQL engine.**
- **Benefits of PL/SQL:**
 - **Integration**
 - **Improved performance**
 - **Portability**
 - **Modularity of program development**

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

PL/SQL is a language that has programming features that serve as an extension to SQL. It provides you with the ability to control the flow of constructs, and declare and use variables. PL/SQL applications can run on any platform or operating system on which Oracle runs.

1

Declaring Variables

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Recognize the basic PL/SQL block and its sections**
- **Describe the significance of variables in PL/SQL**
- **Declare PL/SQL variables**
- **Execute a PL/SQL block**

ORACLE

1-2

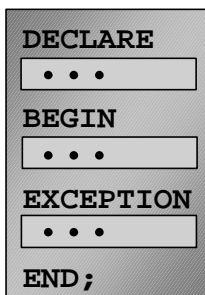
Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

This lesson presents the basic rules and structure for writing and executing PL/SQL blocks of code. It also shows you how to declare variables and assign data types to them.

PL/SQL Block Structure

```
DECLARE (Optional)
    Variables, cursors, user-defined exceptions
BEGIN (Mandatory)
    – SQL statements
    – PL/SQL statements
EXCEPTION (Optional)
    Actions to perform when errors occur
END; (Mandatory)
```



ORACLE

1-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Block Structure

PL/SQL is a block-structured language, meaning that programs can be divided into logical blocks. A PL/SQL block consists of up to three sections: declarative (optional), executable (required), and exception handling (optional). The following table describes the three sections:

Section	Description	Inclusion
Declarative	Contains all variables, constants, cursors, and user-defined exceptions that are referenced in the executable and declarative sections	Optional
Executable	Contains SQL statements to manipulate data in the database and PL/SQL statements to manipulate data in the block	Mandatory
Exception handling	Specifies the actions to perform when errors and abnormal conditions arise in the executable section	Optional

Executing Statements and PL/SQL Blocks

```
DECLARE
    v_variable  VARCHAR2(5);
BEGIN
    SELECT column_name
    INTO v_variable
    FROM table_name;
EXCEPTION
    WHEN exception_name THEN
        ...
END;
```

```
DECLARE
    ...
BEGIN
    ...
EXCEPTION
    ...
END;
```

ORACLE

1-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Executing Statements and PL/SQL Blocks

- Place a semicolon (;) at the end of a SQL statement or PL/SQL control statement.
- When the block is executed successfully, without unhandled errors or compile errors, the message output should be as follows:

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

- Section keywords DECLARE, BEGIN, and EXCEPTION are not followed by semicolons.
- END and all other PL/SQL statements require a semicolon to terminate the statement.
- You can string statements together on the same line, but this method is not recommended for clarity or editing.

Note: In PL/SQL, an error is called an exception.

With modularity you can break an application down into manageable, well-defined modules. Through successive refinement, you can reduce a complex problem to a set of simple problems that have easy-to-implement solutions. PL/SQL meets this need with program units, which include blocks, subprograms, and packages.

Block Types

Anonymous

```
[DECLARE]

BEGIN
    --statements

[EXCEPTION]

END;
```

Procedure

```
PROCEDURE name
IS

BEGIN
    --statements

[EXCEPTION]

END;
```

Function

```
FUNCTION name
RETURN datatype
IS

BEGIN
    --statements
    RETURN value;

[EXCEPTION]

END;
```

ORACLE

1-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Block Types

A PL/SQL program comprises one or more blocks. These blocks can be entirely separate or nested one within another. The basic units (procedures and functions, also known as subprograms, and anonymous blocks) that make up a PL/SQL program are logical blocks, which can contain any number of nested subblocks. Therefore, one block can represent a small part of another block, which in turn can be part of the whole unit of code.

Anonymous Blocks

Anonymous blocks are unnamed blocks. They are declared at the point in an application where they are to be executed and are passed to the PL/SQL engine for execution at run time. You can embed an anonymous block within a precompiler program and within *iSQL*Plus* or Server Manager. Triggers in Oracle Developer components consist of such blocks.

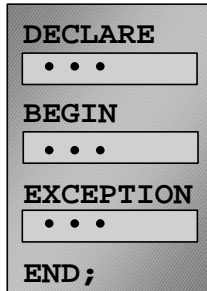
Subprograms

Subprograms are named PL/SQL blocks that can accept parameters and can be invoked. You can declare them either as procedures or as functions. Generally use a procedure to perform an action and a function to compute a value.

You can store subprograms at the server or application level. Using Oracle Developer components (Forms, Reports, and Graphics), you can declare procedures and functions as part of the application (a form or report) and call them from other procedures, functions, and triggers (see next page) within the same application whenever necessary.

Note: A function is similar to a procedure, except that a function *must* return a value.

Program Constructs



Tools Constructs
Anonymous blocks
Application procedures or functions
Application packages
Application triggers
Object types

Database Server Constructs
Anonymous blocks
Stored procedures or functions
Stored packages
Database triggers
Object types

ORACLE

1-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Program Constructs

The following table outlines a variety of different PL/SQL program constructs that use the basic PL/SQL block. The program constructs are available based on the environment in which they are executed.

Program Construct	Description	Availability
Anonymous blocks	Unnamed PL/SQL blocks that are embedded within an application or are issued interactively	All PL/SQL environments
Application procedures or functions	Named PL/SQL blocks stored in an Oracle Forms Developer application or shared library; can accept parameters and can be invoked repeatedly by name	Oracle Developer tools components, for example, Oracle Forms Developer, Oracle Reports
Stored procedures or functions	Named PL/SQL blocks stored in the Oracle server; can accept parameters and can be invoked repeatedly by name	Oracle server
Packages (Application or Stored)	Named PL/SQL modules that group related procedures, functions, and identifiers	Oracle server and Oracle Developer tools components, for example, Oracle Forms Developer
Database triggers	PL/SQL blocks that are associated with a database table and fired automatically when triggered by DML statements	Oracle server
Application triggers	PL/SQL blocks that are associated with an application event and fired automatically	Oracle Developer tools components, for example, Oracle Forms Developer
Object types	User-defined composite data types that encapsulate a data structure along with the functions and procedures needed to manipulate the data	Oracle server and Oracle Developer tools

Use of Variables

Variables can be used for:

- **Temporary storage of data**
- **Manipulation of stored values**
- **Reusability**
- **Ease of maintenance**

ORACLE

1-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Use of Variables

With PL/SQL you can declare variables and then use them in SQL and procedural statements anywhere that an expression can be used. Variables can be used for the following:

- **Temporary storage of data:** Data can be temporarily stored in one or more variables for use when validating data input and for processing later in the data flow process.
- **Manipulation of stored values:** Variables can be used for calculations and other data manipulations without accessing the database.
- **Reusability:** After they are declared, variables can be used repeatedly in an application simply by referencing them in other statements, including other declarative statements.
- **Ease of maintenance:** When using %TYPE and %ROWTYPE (more information on %ROWTYPE is covered in a subsequent lesson), you declare variables, basing the declarations on the definitions of database columns. If an underlying definition changes, the variable declaration changes accordingly at run time. This provides data independence, reduces maintenance costs, and allows programs to adapt as the database changes to meet new business needs. More information on %TYPE is covered later in this lesson.

Handling Variables in PL/SQL

- **Declare and initialize variables in the declaration section.**
- **Assign new values to variables in the executable section.**
- **Pass values into PL/SQL blocks through parameters.**
- **View results through output variables.**

ORACLE

1-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Handling Variables in PL/SQL

Declare and Initialize Variables in the Declaration Section

You can declare variables in the declarative part of any PL/SQL block, subprogram, or package. Declarations allocate storage space for a value, specify its data type, and name the storage location so that you can reference it. Declarations can also assign an initial value and impose the NOT NULL constraint on the variable. Forward references are not allowed. You must declare a variable before referencing it in other statements, including other declarative statements.

Assign New Values to Variables in the Executable Section

In the executable section, the existing value of the variable is replaced with the new value that is assigned to the variable.

Pass Values Into PL/SQL Subprograms Through Parameters

There are three parameter modes, IN (the default), OUT, and IN OUT. Use the IN parameter to pass values to the subprogram being called. Use the OUT parameter to return values to the caller of a subprogram. And use the IN OUT parameter to pass initial values to the subprogram being called and to return updated values to the caller. We pass values into anonymous block via `&SQL*PLUS` substitution variables.

Note: Viewing the results from a PL/SQL block through output variables is discussed later in the lesson.

Types of Variables

- **PL/SQL variables:**
 - **Scalar**
 - **Composite**
 - **Reference**
 - **LOB (large objects)**
- **Non-PL/SQL variables: Bind and host variables**

ORACLE

1-9

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Types of Variables

All PL/SQL variables have a data type, which specifies a storage format, constraints, and valid range of values. PL/SQL supports four data type categories—scalar, composite, reference, and LOB (large object)—that you can use for declaring variables, constants, and pointers.

- Scalar data types hold a single value. The main data types are those that correspond to column types in Oracle server tables; PL/SQL also supports Boolean variables.
- Composite data types, such as records, allow groups of fields to be defined and manipulated in PL/SQL blocks.
- Reference data types hold values, called pointers, that designate other program items. Reference data types are not covered in this course.
- LOB data types hold values, called locators, that specify the location of large objects (such as graphic images) that are stored out of line. LOB data types are discussed in detail later in this course.

Non-PL/SQL variables include host language variables declared in precompiler programs, screen fields in Forms applications, and *iSQL*Plus* host variables.

For more information on LOBs, see *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, “Fundamentals.”

Using *iSQL*Plus* Variables Within PL/SQL Blocks

- PL/SQL does not have input or output capability of its own.
- You can reference substitution variables within a PL/SQL block with a preceding ampersand.
- *iSQL*Plus* host (or “bind”) variables can be used to pass run time values out of the PL/SQL block back to the *iSQL*Plus* environment.

ORACLE

1-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Using *iSQL*Plus* Variables Within PL/SQL Blocks

PL/SQL does not have input or output capability of its own. You must rely on the environment in which PL/SQL is executing to pass values into and out of a PL/SQL block.

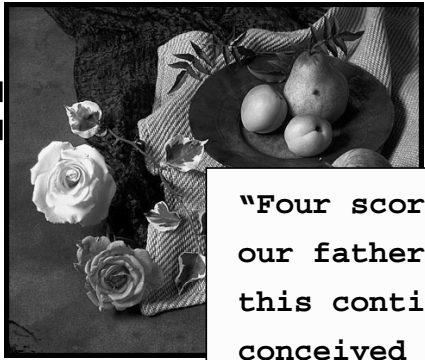
In the *iSQL*Plus* environment, *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables can be used to pass run time values into a PL/SQL block. You can reference substitution variables within a PL/SQL block with a preceding ampersand in the same manner as you reference *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables in a SQL statement. The text values are substituted into the PL/SQL block before the PL/SQL block is executed. Therefore you cannot substitute different values for the substitution variables by using a loop. Only one value will replace the substitution variable.

*iSQL*Plus* host variables can be used to pass run-time values out of the PL/SQL block back to the *iSQL*Plus* environment. You can reference host variables in a PL/SQL block with a preceding colon. Bind variables are discussed in further detail later in this lesson.

Types of Variables


TRUE

25-JAN-01



"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in LIBERTY, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

256120.08



Atlanta

ORACLE

1-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Types of Variables

The slide illustrates the following variable data types:

- TRUE represents a Boolean value.
- 25-JAN-01 represents a DATE.
- The photograph represents a BLOB.
- The text of a speech represents a LONG.
- 256120.08 represents a NUMBER data type with precision and scale.
- The movie represents a BFILE.
- The city name, Atlanta, represents a VARCHAR2.

Declaring PL/SQL Variables

Syntax:

```
identifier [CONSTANT] datatype [NOT NULL]  
[:= | DEFAULT expr];
```

Examples:

```
DECLARE  
  v_hiredate      DATE;  
  v_deptno        NUMBER(2) NOT NULL := 10;  
  v_location      VARCHAR2(13) := 'Atlanta';  
  c_comm          CONSTANT NUMBER := 1400;
```

ORACLE

1-12

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring PL/SQL Variables

You must declare all PL/SQL identifiers in the declaration section before referencing them in the PL/SQL block. You have the option to assign an initial value to a variable. You do not need to assign a value to a variable in order to declare it. If you refer to other variables in a declaration, you must be sure to declare them separately in a previous statement.

In the syntax:

<i>identifier</i>	is the name of the variable.
CONSTANT	constrains the variable so that its value cannot change; constants must be initialized.
<i>data type</i>	is a scalar, composite, reference, or LOB data type. (This course covers only scalar, composite, and LOB data types.)
NOT NULL	constrains the variable so that it must contain a value. (NOT NULL variables must be initialized.)
<i>expr</i>	is any PL/SQL expression that can be a literal expression, another variable, or an expression involving operators and functions.

Guidelines for Declaring PL/SQL Variables

- Follow naming conventions.
- Initialize variables designated as `NOT NULL` and `CONSTANT`.
- Declare one identifier per line.
- Initialize identifiers by using the assignment operator (`:=`) or the `DEFAULT` reserved word.

```
identifier := expr;
```

ORACLE

1-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Guidelines for Declaring PL/SQL Variables

Here are some guidelines to follow while declaring PL/SQL variables:

- Name the identifier according to the same rules used for SQL objects.
- You can use naming conventions—for example, *v_name* to represent a variable and *c_name* to represent a constant variable.
- If you use the `NOT NULL` constraint, you must assign a value.
- Declaring only one identifier per line makes code easier to read and maintain.
- In constant declarations, the keyword `CONSTANT` must precede the type specifier. The following declaration names a constant of `NUMBER` subtype `REAL` and assigns the value of 50000 to the constant. A constant must be initialized in its declaration; otherwise, you get a compilation error when the declaration is elaborated (compiled).

```
v_sal      CONSTANT REAL := 50000.00;
```

- Initialize the variable to an expression with the assignment operator (`:=`) or, equivalently, with the `DEFAULT` reserved word. If you do not assign an initial value, the new variable contains `NULL` by default until you assign a value later. To assign or reassign a value to a variable, you write a PL/SQL assignment statement. You must explicitly name the variable to receive the new value to the left of the assignment operator (`:=`). It is good programming practice to initialize all variables.

Naming Rules

- Two variables can have the same name, provided they are in different blocks.
- The variable name (identifier) should not be the same as the name of table columns used in the block.

```
DECLARE
    employee_id NUMBER(6);
BEGIN
    SELECT  employee_id
    INTO    employee_id
    FROM    employees
    WHERE   last_name = 'Kochhar';
END;
/
```

Adopt a naming convention for PL/SQL identifiers: for example, v_employee_id

ORACLE

1-14

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Naming Rules

Two objects can have the same name, provided that they are defined in different blocks. Where they coexist, only the object declared in the current block can be used.

You should not choose the same name (identifier) for a variable as the name of table columns used in the block. If PL/SQL variables occur in SQL statements and have the same name as a column, the Oracle server assumes that it is the column that is being referenced. Although the example code in the slide works, code that is written using the same name for a database table and variable name is not easy to read or maintain.

Consider adopting a naming convention for various objects that are declared in the DECLARE section of the PL/SQL block. Using v_ as a prefix representing *variable* avoids naming conflicts with database objects.

```
DECLARE
    v_hire_date date;
BEGIN
    ...
```

Note: The names of the variables must not be longer than 30 characters. The first character must be a letter; the remaining characters can be letters, numbers, or special symbols.

Variable Initialization and Keywords

- **Assignment operator (:=)**
- **DEFAULT keyword**
- **NOT NULL constraint**

Syntax:

```
identifier := expr;
```

Examples:

```
v_hiredate := '01-JAN-2001';
```

```
v_ename := 'Maduro';
```

ORACLE

1-15

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Variable Initialization and Keywords

In the syntax:

identifier is the name of the scalar variable.

expr can be a variable, literal, or function call, but *not* a database column.

The variable value assignment examples are defined as follows:

- Set the identifier `V_HIREDATE` to a value of 01-JAN-2001.
- Store the name “Maduro” in the `V_ENAME` identifier.

Variables are initialized every time a block or subprogram is entered. By default, variables are initialized to NULL. Unless you explicitly initialize a variable, its value is undefined.

Use the assignment operator (:=) for variables that have no typical value.

```
v_hire_date := '15-SEP-1999'
```

Note: This four-digit value for year, YYYY, assignment is possible only in Oracle8i and later. Previous versions may require the use of the TO_DATE function.

DEFAULT: You can use the DEFAULT keyword instead of the assignment operator to initialize variables. Use DEFAULT for variables that have a typical value.

```
v_mgr NUMBER(6) DEFAULT 100;
```

NOT NULL: Impose the NOT NULL constraint when the variable must contain a value.

You cannot assign nulls to a variable defined as NOT NULL. The NOT NULL constraint must be followed by an initialization clause.

```
v_city VARCHAR2(30) NOT NULL := 'Oxford'
```

Variable Initialization and Keywords (continued)

Note: String literals must be enclosed in single quotation marks. For example, 'Hello, world'. If there is a single quotation mark in the string, use a single quotation mark twice—for example, to insert a value FISHERMAN'S DRIVE, the string would be 'FISHERMAN' 'S DRIVE'.

Another way to assign values to variables is to select or fetch database values into it. The following example computes a 10% bonus for the employee with the EMPLOYEE_ID 176 and assigns the computed value to the v_bonus variable. This is done using the INTO clause.

```
DECLARE
    v_bonus NUMBER(8,2);
BEGIN
    SELECT  salary * 0.10
    INTO    v_bonus
    FROM    employees
    WHERE   employee_id = 176;
END;
/
```

Then you can use the variable v_bonus in another computation or insert its value into a database table.

Note: To assign a value into a variable from the database, use a SELECT or FETCH statement. The FETCH statement is covered later in this course.

Scalar Data Types

- Hold a single value
- Have no internal components

25-OCT-99

256120.08

"Four score and seven years
ago our fathers brought
forth upon this continent, a
new nation, conceived in
LIBERTY, and dedicated to
the proposition that all men
are created equal."

TRUE

Atlanta

ORACLE

1-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Scalar Data Types

Every constant, variable, and parameter has a data type (or type), which specifies a storage format, constraints, and valid range of values. PL/SQL provides a variety of predefined data types. For instance, you can choose from integer, floating point, character, Boolean, date, collection, reference, and LOB types. In addition, This chapter covers the basic types that are used frequently in PL/SQL programs. Later chapters cover the more specialized types.

A scalar data type holds a single value and has no internal components. Scalar data types can be classified into four categories: number, character, date, and Boolean. Character and number data types have subtypes that associate a base type to a constraint. For example, `INTEGER` and `POSITIVE` are subtypes of the `NUMBER` base type.

For more information and the complete list of scalar data types, refer to *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Fundamentals."

Base Scalar Data Types

- `CHAR [(maximum_length)]`
- `VARCHAR2 (maximum_length)`
- `LONG`
- `LONG RAW`
- `NUMBER [(precision, scale)]`
- `BINARY_INTEGER`
- `PLS_INTEGER`
- `BOOLEAN`

ORACLE

1-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Base Scalar Data Types

Data Type	Description
<code>CHAR</code> <code>[(maximum_length)]</code>	Base type for fixed-length character data up to 32,767 bytes. If you do not specify a <i>maximum_length</i> , the default length is set to 1.
<code>VARCHAR2</code> <code>(maximum_length)</code>	Base type for variable-length character data up to 32,767 bytes. There is no default size for <code>VARCHAR2</code> variables and constants.
<code>LONG</code>	Base type for variable-length character data up to 32,760 bytes. Use the <code>LONG</code> data type to store variable-length character strings. You can insert any <code>LONG</code> value into a <code>LONG</code> database column because the maximum width of a <code>LONG</code> column is 2**31 bytes. However, you cannot retrieve a value longer than 32760 bytes from a <code>LONG</code> column into a <code>LONG</code> variable.
<code>LONG RAW</code>	Base type for binary data and byte strings up to 32,760 bytes. <code>LONG RAW</code> data is not interpreted by PL/SQL.
<code>NUMBER</code> <code>[(precision, scale)]</code>	Number having precision <i>p</i> and scale <i>s</i> . The precision <i>p</i> can range from 1 to 38. The scale <i>s</i> can range from -84 to 127.

Base Scalar Data types (continued)

Data Type	Description
BINARY_INTEGER	Base type for integers between -2,147,483,647 and 2,147,483,647.
PLS_INTEGER	Base type for signed integers between -2,147,483,647 and 2,147,483,647. PLS_INTEGER values require less storage and are faster than NUMBER and BINARY_INTEGER values.
BOOLEAN	Base type that stores one of three possible values used for logical calculations: TRUE, FALSE, or NULL.

Base Scalar Data Types

- **DATE**
- **TIMESTAMP**
- **TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE**
- **TIMESTAMP WITH LOCAL TIME ZONE**
- **INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH**
- **INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND**

ORACLE

1-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Base Scalar Data Types (continued)

Data Type	Description
DATE	Base type for dates and times. DATE values include the time of day in seconds since midnight. The range for dates is between 4712 B.C. and 9999 A.D.
TIMESTAMP	The TIMESTAMP data type, which extends the DATE data type, stores the year, month, day, hour, minute, and second. The syntax is: TIMESTAMP[(precision)] where the optional parameter precision specifies the number of digits in the fractional part of the seconds field. You cannot use a symbolic constant or variable to specify the precision; you must use an integer literal in the range 0 .. 9. The default is 6.
TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE	The TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE data type, which extends the TIMESTAMP data type, includes a time-zone displacement. The time-zone displacement is the difference (in hours and minutes) between local time and Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), formerly known as Greenwich Mean Time. The syntax is: TIMESTAMP[(precision)] WITH TIME ZONE where the optional parameter precision specifies the number of digits in the fractional part of the seconds field. You cannot use a symbolic constant or variable to specify the precision; you must use an integer literal in the range 0 .. 9. The default is 6.

Base Scalar Data Types (continued)

Data Type	Description
TIMESTAMP WITH LOCAL TIME ZONE	<p>The <code>TIMESTAMP WITH LOCAL TIME ZONE</code> data type, which extends the <code>TIMESTAMP</code> data type, includes a time-zone displacement. The time-zone displacement is the difference (in hours and minutes) between local time and Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)—formerly Greenwich Mean Time. The syntax is:</p> <pre>TIMESTAMP[(precision)] WITH LOCAL TIME ZONE</pre> <p>where the optional parameter <code>precision</code> specifies the number of digits in the fractional part of the seconds field. You cannot use a symbolic constant or variable to specify the precision; you must use an integer literal in the range 0 .. 9. The default is 6.</p> <p>This data type differs from <code>TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE</code> in that when you insert a value into a database column, the value is normalized to the database time zone, and the time-zone displacement is not stored in the column. When you retrieve the value, Oracle returns the value in your local session time zone.</p>
INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH	<p>You use the <code>INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH</code> data type to store and manipulate intervals of years and months. The syntax is:</p> <pre>INTERVAL YEAR[(precision)] TO MONTH</pre> <p>where <code>years_precision</code> specifies the number of digits in the years field. You cannot use a symbolic constant or variable to specify the precision; you must use an integer literal in the range 0 .. 4. The default is 2.</p>
INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND	<p>You use the <code>INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND</code> data type to store and manipulate intervals of days, hours, minutes, and seconds. The syntax is:</p> <pre>INTERVAL DAY[(precision1)] TO SECOND[(precision2)]</pre> <p>where <code>precision1</code> and <code>precision2</code> specify the number of digits in the days field and seconds field, respectively. In both cases, you cannot use a symbolic constant or variable to specify the precision; you must use an integer literal in the range 0 .. 9. The defaults are 2 and 6, respectively.</p>

Scalar Variable Declarations

Examples:

```
DECLARE
  v_job          VARCHAR2(9);
  v_count        BINARY_INTEGER := 0;
  v_total_sal    NUMBER(9,2) := 0;
  v_orderdate    DATE := SYSDATE + 7;
  c_tax_rate     CONSTANT NUMBER(3,2) := 8.25;
  v_valid        BOOLEAN NOT NULL := TRUE;
  ...
```

ORACLE

1-22

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring Scalar Variables

The examples of variable declaration shown on the slide are defined as follows:

- `v_job`: variable to store an employee job title
- `v_count`: variable to count the iterations of a loop and initialized to 0
- `v_total_sal`: variable to accumulate the total salary for a department and initialized to 0
- `v_orderdate`: variable to store the ship date of an order and initialize to one week from today
- `c_tax_rate`: a constant variable for the tax rate, which never changes throughout the PL/SQL block
- `v_valid`: flag to indicate whether a piece of data is valid or invalid and initialized to TRUE

The %TYPE Attribute

- **Declare a variable according to:**
 - A database column definition
 - Another previously declared variable
- **Prefix %TYPE with:**
 - The database table and column
 - The previously declared variable name

ORACLE

1-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The %TYPE Attribute

When you declare PL/SQL variables to hold column values, you must ensure that the variable is of the correct data type and precision. If it is not, a PL/SQL error will occur during execution.

Rather than hard coding the data type and precision of a variable, you can use the %TYPE attribute to declare a variable according to another previously declared variable or database column. The %TYPE attribute is most often used when the value stored in the variable will be derived from a table in the database. To use the attribute in place of the data type that is required in the variable declaration, prefix it with the database table and column name. If referring to a previously declared variable, prefix the variable name to the attribute.

PL/SQL determines the data type and size of the variable when the block is compiled so that such variables are always compatible with the column that is used to populate it. This is a definite advantage for writing and maintaining code, because there is no need to be concerned with column data type changes made at the database level. You can also declare a variable according to another previously declared variable by prefixing the variable name to the attribute.

Declaring Variables with the %TYPE Attribute

Syntax:

```
identifier      Table.column_name%TYPE;
```

Examples:

```
...  
  v_name          employees.last_name%TYPE;  
  v_balance       NUMBER(7,2);  
  v_min_balance   v_balance%TYPE := 10;  
...
```

ORACLE

1-24

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring Variables with the %TYPE Attribute

Declare variables to store the last name of an employee. The variable `v_name` is defined to be of the same data type as the `LAST_NAME` column in the `EMPLOYEES` table. `%TYPE` provides the data type of a database column:

```
...  
v_name          employees.last_name%TYPE;  
...
```

Declare variables to store the balance of a bank account, as well as the minimum balance, which starts out as 10. The variable `v_min_balance` is defined to be of the same data type as the variable `v_balance`. `%TYPE` provides the data type of a variable:

```
...  
v_balance       NUMBER(7,2);  
v_min_balance   v_balance%TYPE := 10;  
...
```

A `NOT NULL` database column constraint does not apply to variables that are declared using `%TYPE`. Therefore, if you declare a variable using the `%TYPE` attribute that uses a database column defined as `NOT NULL`, you can assign the `NULL` value to the variable.

Declaring Boolean Variables

- Only the values **TRUE**, **FALSE**, and **NULL** can be assigned to a **Boolean variable**.
- The variables are compared by the logical operators **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.
- The variables always yield **TRUE**, **FALSE**, or **NULL**.
- Arithmetic, character, and date expressions can be used to return a **Boolean value**.

ORACLE

1-25

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring Boolean Variables

With PL/SQL you can compare variables in both SQL and procedural statements. These comparisons, called Boolean expressions, consist of simple or complex expressions separated by relational operators. In a SQL statement, you can use Boolean expressions to specify the rows in a table that are affected by the statement. In a procedural statement, Boolean expressions are the basis for conditional control. **NULL** stands for a missing, inapplicable, or unknown value.

Examples

```
v_sal1 := 50000;  
v_sal2 := 60000;
```


The following expression yields **TRUE**:

```
v_sal1 < v_sal2
```

Declare and initialize a Boolean variable:

```
DECLARE  
    v_flag BOOLEAN := FALSE;  
BEGIN  
    v_flag := TRUE;  
END;
```

Composite Data Types

TRUE	23-DEC-98	ATLANTA	
------	-----------	---------	--

PL/SQL table structure

1	SMITH
2	JONES
3	NANCY
4	TIM

↑
↑
VARCHAR2
BINARY_INTEGER

PL/SQL table structure

1	5000
2	2345
3	12
4	3456

↑
↑
NUMBER
BINARY_INTEGER

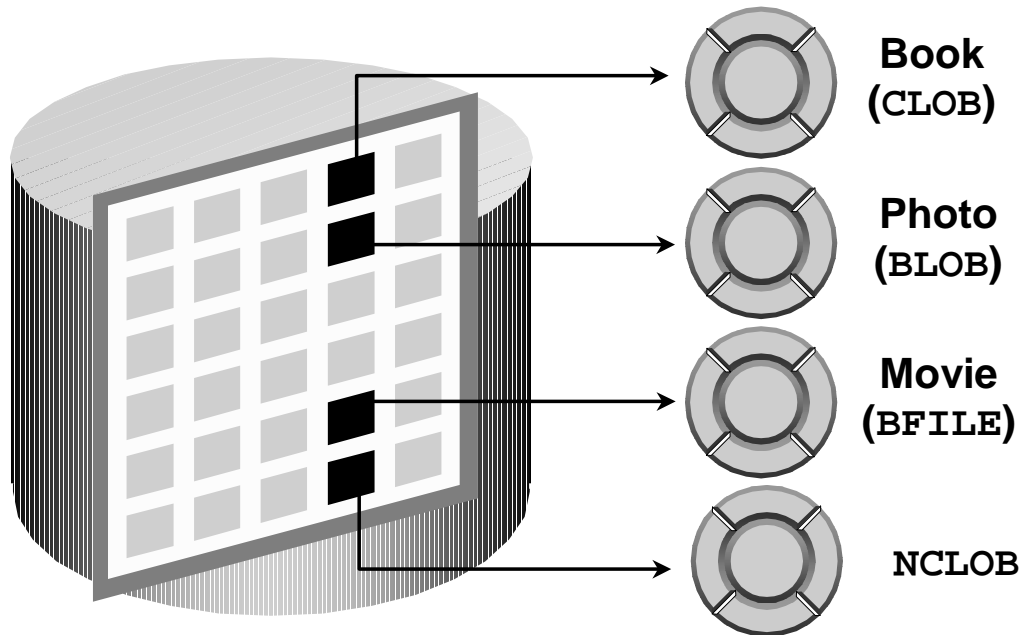
ORACLE

Composite Data Types

A scalar type has no internal components. A composite type has internal components that can be manipulated individually. Composite data types (also known as collections) are of TABLE, RECORD, NESTED TABLE, and VARRAY types. Use the RECORD data type to treat related but dissimilar data as a logical unit. Use the TABLE data type to reference and manipulate collections of data as a whole object. Both RECORD and TABLE data types are covered in detail in a subsequent lesson. NESTED TABLE and VARRAY data types are covered in the *Advanced PL/SQL* course.

For more information, see *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Collections and Records."

LOB Data Type Variables



ORACLE

1-27

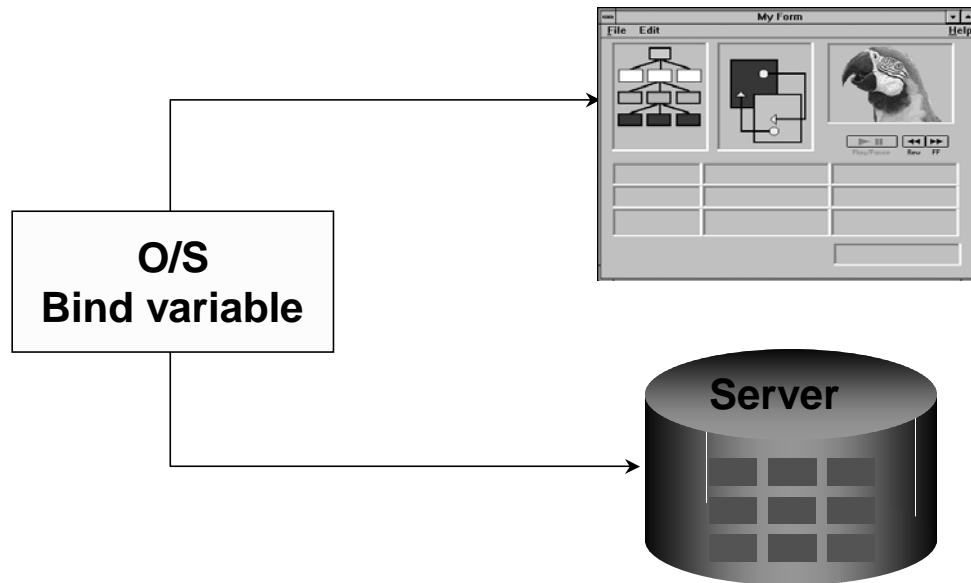
Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

LOB Data Type Variables

With the LOB (large object) data types you can store blocks of unstructured data (such as text, graphic images, video clips, and sound wave forms) up to 4 gigabytes in size. LOB data types allow efficient, random, piecewise access to the data and can be attributes of an object type. LOBs also support random access to data.

- The CLOB (character large object) data type is used to store large blocks of single-byte character data in the database in line (inside the row) or out of line (outside the row).
- The BLOB (binary large object) data type is used to store large binary objects in the database in line (inside the row) or out of line (outside the row).
- The BFILE (binary file) data type is used to store large binary objects in operating system files outside the database.
- The NCLOB (national language character large object) data type is used to store large blocks of single-byte or fixed-width multibyte NCHAR unicode data in the database, in line or out of line.

Bind Variables



ORACLE

1-28

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Bind Variables

A bind variable is a variable that you declare in a host environment. Bind variables can be used to pass run-time values, either number or character, into or out of one or more PL/SQL programs. The PL/SQL programs use bind variables as they would use any other variable. You can reference variables declared in the host or calling environment in PL/SQL statements, unless the statement is in a procedure, function, or package. This includes host language variables declared in precompiler programs, screen fields in Oracle Developer Forms applications, and *iSQL*Plus* bind variables.

Creating Bind Variables

To declare a bind variable in the *iSQL*Plus* environment, use the command `VARIABLE`. For example, you declare a variable of type `NUMBER` and `VARCHAR2` as follows:

```
VARIABLE return_code NUMBER
VARIABLE return_msg VARCHAR2(30)
```

Both SQL and *iSQL*Plus* can reference the bind variable, and *iSQL*Plus* can display its value through the *iSQL*Plus* `PRINT` command.

Displaying Bind Variables

To display the current value of bind variables in the *iSQL*Plus* environment, use the `PRINT` command. However, `PRINT` cannot be used inside a PL/SQL block because it is an *iSQL*Plus* command. The following example illustrates a `PRINT` command:

```
VARIABLE g_n NUMBER
...
PRINT g_n
```

You can reference host variables in PL/SQL programs. These variables should be preceded by a colon.

```
VARIABLE RESULT NUMBER
```

An example of using a host variable in a PL/SQL block:

```
BEGIN
  SELECT (SALARY*12) + NVL(COMMISSION_PCT,0) INTO :RESULT
  FROM employees WHERE employee_id = 144;
END;
/
PRINT RESULT
```

Using Bind Variables

To reference a bind variable in PL/SQL, you must prefix its name with a colon (:).

Example:

```
VARIABLE      g_salary NUMBER
BEGIN
  SELECT      salary
  INTO        :g_salary
  FROM        employees
  WHERE       employee_id = 178;
END;
/
PRINT g_salary
```

ORACLE

1-30

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Printing Bind Variables

In *iSQL*Plus* you can display the value of the bind variable using the `PRINT` command.

G_SALARY	
	7000

Referencing Non-PL/SQL Variables

Store the annual salary into a *iSQL*Plus* host variable.

```
:g_monthly_sal := v_sal / 12;
```

- Reference non-PL/SQL variables as host variables.
- Prefix the references with a colon (:).

ORACLE

1-31

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Referencing Non-PL/SQL Variables

To reference host variables, you must prefix the references with a colon (:) to distinguish them from declared PL/SQL variables.

Example

This example computes the monthly salary, based upon the annual salary supplied by the user. This script contains both *iSQL*Plus* commands as well as a complete PL/SQL block.

```
VARIABLE g_monthly_sal NUMBER
DEFINE p_annual_sal = 50000

SET VERIFY OFF
DECLARE
    v_sal NUMBER(9,2) := &p_annual_sal;
BEGIN
    :g_monthly_sal := v_sal/12;
END;
/
PRINT g_monthly_sal
```

The DEFINE command specifies a user variable and assigns it a CHAR value. Even though you enter the number 50000, *iSQL*Plus* assigns a CHAR value to `p_annual_sal` consisting of the characters, 5,0,0,0 and 0.

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE

- An Oracle-supplied packaged procedure
- An alternative for displaying data from a PL/SQL block
- Must be enabled in *iSQL*Plus* with
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DEFINE p_annual_sal = 60000
```

```
DECLARE
    v_sal NUMBER(9,2) := &p_annual_sal;
BEGIN
    v_sal := v_sal/12;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('The monthly salary is ' ||
                          TO_CHAR(v_sal));
END;
/
```

ORACLE

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE

You have seen that you can declare a host variable, reference it in a PL/SQL block, and then display its contents in *iSQL*Plus* using the PRINT command. Another option for displaying information from a PL/SQL block is DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE. DBMS_OUTPUT is an Oracle-supplied package, and PUT_LINE is a procedure within that package.

Within a PL/SQL block, reference DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE and, in parentheses, specify the string that you want to print to the screen. The package must first be enabled in your *iSQL*Plus* session. To do this, execute the *iSQL*Plus* SET SERVEROUTPUT ON command.

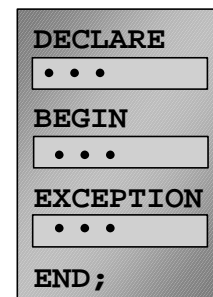
The example on the slide computes the monthly salary and prints it to the screen, using DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE. The output is shown below:

```
The monthly salary is 5000
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned the following:

- **PL/SQL blocks are composed of the following sections:**
 - **Declarative (optional)**
 - **Executable (required)**
 - **Exception handling (optional)**
- **A PL/SQL block can be an anonymous block, procedure, or function.**



ORACLE

Summary

A PL/SQL block is a basic, unnamed unit of a PL/SQL program. It consists of a set of SQL or PL/SQL statements and it performs a single logical function. The declarative part is the first part of a PL/SQL block and is used for declaring objects such as variables, constants, cursors, and definitions of error situations called exceptions. The executable part is the mandatory part of a PL/SQL block, and contains SQL and PL/SQL statements for querying and manipulating data. The exception-handling part is embedded inside the executable part of a block and is placed at the end of the executable part.

An anonymous PL/SQL block is the basic, unnamed unit of a PL/SQL program. Procedures and functions can be compiled separately and stored permanently in an Oracle database, ready to be executed.

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned the following:

- **PL/SQL identifiers:**
 - Are defined in the declarative section
 - Can be of scalar, composite, reference, or LOB data type
 - Can be based on the structure of another variable or database object
 - Can be initialized
- **Variables declared in an external environment such as *iSQL*Plus* are called host variables.**
- **Use `DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE` to display data from a PL/SQL block.**

ORACLE

1-34

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary (continued)

All PL/SQL data types are scalar, composite, reference, or LOB type. Scalar data types do not have any components within them, whereas composite data types have other data types within them. PL/SQL variables are declared and initialized in the declarative section.

When a PL/SQL program is written and executed using *iSQL*Plus*, *iSQL*Plus* becomes the host environment for the PL/SQL program. The variables declared in *iSQL*Plus* are called host variables. Then the PL/SQL program is written and executed using, for example, Oracle Forms. Forms becomes a host environment, and variables declared in Oracle Forms are called host variables. Host variables are also called bind variables.

To display information from a PL/SQL block use `DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE`. `DBMS_OUTPUT` is an Oracle-supplied package, and `PUT_LINE` is a procedure within that package. Within a PL/SQL block, reference `DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE` and, in parentheses, specify the string that you want to print to the screen.

Practice 1 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Determining validity of declarations**
- **Declaring a simple PL/SQL block**
- **Executing a simple PL/SQL block**

ORACLE

1-35

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 1 Overview

This practice reinforces the basics of PL/SQL covered in this lesson, including data types, definitions of identifiers, and validation of expressions. You put all these elements together to create a simple PL/SQL block.

Paper-Based Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are paper-based questions.

Practice 1

1. Evaluate each of the following declarations. Determine which of them are *not* legal and explain why.

- a.

```
DECLARE
    v_id                NUMBER(4);
```
- b.

```
DECLARE
    v_x, v_y, v_z        VARCHAR2(10);
```
- c.

```
DECLARE
    v_birthdate          DATE NOT NULL;
```
- d.

```
DECLARE
    v_in_stock           BOOLEAN := 1;
```


Practice 1 (continued)

2. In each of the following assignments, indicate whether the statement is valid and what the valid data type of the result will be.

a. `v_days_to_go := v_due_date - SYSDATE;`

b. `v_sender := USER || ' : ' || TO_CHAR(v_dept_no);`

c. `v_sum := $100,000 + $250,000;`

d. `v_flag := TRUE;`

e. `v_n1 := v_n2 > (2 * v_n3);`

f. `v_value := NULL;`

3. Create an anonymous block to output the phrase “My PL/SQL Block Works” to the screen.

G_MESSAGE
My PL/SQL Block Works

Practice 1 (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercise:

4. Create a block that declares two variables. Assign the value of these PL/SQL variables to *iSQL**Plus host variables and print the results of the PL/SQL variables to the screen. Execute your PL/SQL block. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named `p1q4.sql`, by clicking the `Save Script` button. Remember to save the script with a `.sql` extension.

V_CHAR	Character (variable length)
V_NUM	Number

Assign values to these variables as follows:

Variable	Value
V_CHAR	The literal '42 is the answer'
V_NUM	The first two characters from V_CHAR

G_CHAR	
42 is the answer	

G_NUM	
	42

2

Writing Executable Statements

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Describe the significance of the executable section**
- **Use identifiers correctly**
- **Write statements in the executable section**
- **Describe the rules of nested blocks**
- **Execute and test a PL/SQL block**
- **Use coding conventions**

ORACLE

2-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn how to write executable code in the PL/SQL block. You also learn the rules for nesting PL/SQL blocks of code, as well as how to execute and test PL/SQL code.

PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines

- **Statements can continue over several lines.**
- **Lexical units can be classified as:**
 - **Delimiters**
 - **Identifiers**
 - **Literals**
 - **Comments**

ORACLE

2-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines

Because PL/SQL is an extension of SQL, the general syntax rules that apply to SQL also apply to the PL/SQL language.

- A line of PL/SQL text contains groups of characters known as lexical units, which can be classified as follows:
 - Delimiters (simple and compound symbols)
 - Identifiers, which include reserved words
 - Literals
 - Comments
- To improve readability, you can separate lexical units by spaces. In fact, you must separate adjacent identifiers by a space or punctuation.
- You cannot embed spaces in lexical units except for string literals and comments.
- Statements can be split across lines, but keywords must not be split.

PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines (continued)

Delimiters

Delimiters are simple or compound symbols that have special meaning to PL/SQL.

Simple Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
+	Addition operator
-	Subtraction/negation operator
*	Multiplication operator
/	Division operator
=	Relational operator
@	Remote access indicator
;	Statement terminator

Compound Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
<>	Relational operator
!=	Relational operator
	Concatenation operator
--	Single line comment indicator
/*	Beginning comment delimiter
*/	Ending comment delimiter
:=	Assignment operator

Note: Reserved words cannot be used as identifiers unless they are enclosed in double quotation marks (for example, "SELECT").

Identifiers

- **Can contain up to 30 characters**
- **Must begin with an alphabetic character**
- **Can contain numerals, dollar signs, underscores, and number signs**
- **Cannot contain characters such as hyphens, slashes, and spaces**
- **Should not have the same name as a database table column name**
- **Should not be reserved words**

ORACLE

2-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Identifiers

Identifiers are used to name PL/SQL program items and units, which include constants, variables, exceptions, cursors, cursor variables, subprograms, and packages.

- Identifiers can contain up to 30 characters, but they must start with an alphabetic character.
- Do not choose the same name for the identifier as the name of columns in a table used in the block. If PL/SQL identifiers are in the same SQL statements and have the same name as a column, then Oracle assumes that it is the column that is being referenced.
- Reserved words should be written in uppercase to promote readability.
- An identifier consists of a letter, optionally followed by more letters, numerals, dollar signs, underscores, and number signs. Other characters such as hyphens, slashes, and spaces are illegal, as the following examples show:

```
dots&dashes    -- illegal ampersand
debit-amount   -- illegal hyphen
on/off         -- illegal slash
user id        -- illegal space
```

money\$\$\$tree, SN##, try_again_ are examples that show that adjoining and trailing dollar signs, underscores, and number signs are allowed.

PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines

- **Literals**
 - Character and date literals must be enclosed in single quotation marks.

```
v_name := 'Henderson';
```
 - Numbers can be simple values or scientific notation.
- A slash (/) runs the PL/SQL block in a script file or in some tools such as *iSQL*PLUS*.

ORACLE

2-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Block Syntax and Guidelines

A literal is an explicit numeric, character, string, or Boolean value that is not represented by an identifier.

- Character literals include all the printable characters in the PL/SQL character set: letters, numerals, spaces, and special symbols.
- Numeric literals can be represented either by a simple value (for example, -32.5) or by a scientific notation (for example, $2E5$, meaning $2 \times (10 \text{ to the power of } 5) = 200000$).

A PL/SQL program is terminated and executed by a slash (/) on a line by itself.

Commenting Code

- Prefix single-line comments with two dashes (--).
- Place multiple-line comments between the symbols /* and */.

Example:

```
DECLARE
...
  v_sal NUMBER (9,2);
BEGIN
  /* Compute the annual salary based on the
    monthly salary input from the user */
  v_sal := :g_monthly_sal * 12;
END;      -- This is the end of the block
```

ORACLE

2-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Commenting Code

Comment code to document each phase and to assist debugging. Comment the PL/SQL code with two dashes (--) if the comment is on a single line, or enclose the comment between the symbols /* and */ if the comment spans several lines. Comments are strictly informational and do not enforce any conditions or behavior on behavioral logic or data. Well-placed comments are extremely valuable for code readability and future code maintenance.

Example

In the example on the slide, the line enclosed within /* and */ is the comment that explains the code that follows it.

SQL Functions in PL/SQL

- **Available in procedural statements:**
 - Single-row number
 - Single-row character
 - Data type conversion
 - Date
 - Timestamp
 - GREATEST and LEAST
 - Miscellaneous functions
 - **Not available in procedural statements:**
 - DECODE
 - Group functions
- } Same as in SQL

ORACLE

2-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SQL Functions in PL/SQL

Most of the functions available in SQL are also valid in PL/SQL expressions:

- Single-row number functions
- Single-row character functions
- Data type conversion functions
- Date functions
- Timestamp functions
- GREATEST, LEAST
- Miscellaneous functions

The following functions are not available in procedural statements:

- DECODE.
- Group functions: AVG, MIN, MAX, COUNT, SUM, STDDEV, and VARIANCE. Group functions apply to groups of rows in a table and therefore are available only in SQL statements in a PL/SQL block.

SQL Functions in PL/SQL: Examples

- **Build the mailing list for a company.**

```
v_mailing_address := v_name || CHR(10) ||  
                    v_address || CHR(10) || v_state ||  
                    CHR(10) || v_zip;
```

- **Convert the employee name to lowercase.**

```
v_ename          := LOWER(v_ename);
```

ORACLE

2-9

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SQL Functions in PL/SQL: Examples

Most of the SQL functions can be used in PL/SQL. These built-in functions help you to manipulate data; they fall into the following categories:

- Number
- Character
- Conversion
- Date
- Miscellaneous

The function examples in the slide are defined as follows:

- Build the mailing address for a company.
- Convert the name to lowercase.

CHR is the SQL function that converts an ASCII code to its corresponding character; 10 is the code for a line feed.

PL/SQL has its own error handling functions which are:

- SQLCODE
- SQLERRM (These error handling functions are discussed later in this course)

Data Type Conversion

- **Convert data to comparable data types.**
- **Mixed data types can result in an error and affect performance.**
- **Conversion functions:**
 - `TO_CHAR`
 - `TO_DATE`
 - `TO_NUMBER`

```
DECLARE
    v_date DATE := TO_DATE('12-JAN-2001', 'DD-MON-YYYY');
BEGIN
    . . .
```

ORACLE

2-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Data Type Conversion

PL/SQL attempts to convert data types dynamically if they are mixed in a statement. For example, if you assign a `NUMBER` value to a `CHAR` variable, then PL/SQL dynamically translates the number into a character representation, so that it can be stored in the `CHAR` variable. The reverse situation also applies, provided that the character expression represents a numeric value.

If they are compatible, you can also assign characters to `DATE` variables and vice versa.

Within an expression, you should make sure that data types are the same. If mixed data types occur in an expression, you should use the appropriate conversion function to convert the data.

Syntax

`TO_CHAR (value, fmt)`

`TO_DATE (value, fmt)`

`TO_NUMBER (value, fmt)`

where: *value* is a character string, number, or date.
 fmt is the format model used to convert a value.

Data Type Conversion

This statement produces a compilation error if the variable `v_date` is declared as a `DATE` data type.

```
v_date := 'January 13, 2001';
```

ORACLE

2-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Data Type Conversion (continued)

The conversion example in the slide is defined as follows:

Store a character string representing a date in a variable that is declared as a `DATE` data type. *This code causes a syntax error.*

Data Type Conversion

To correct the error, use the TO_DATE conversion function.

```
v_date := TO_DATE ('January 13, 2001',  
                  'Month DD, YYYY');
```

ORACLE

2-12

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Data Type Conversion (continued)

The conversion example in the slide to correct error from the previous slide is defined as follows:

To correct the error in the previous slide, convert the string to a date with the TO_DATE conversion function.

PL/SQL attempts conversion if possible, but its success depends on the operations that are being performed. It is good programming practice to explicitly perform data type conversions, because they can favorably affect performance and remain valid even with a change in software versions.

Nested Blocks and Variable Scope

- **PL/SQL blocks can be nested wherever an executable statement is allowed.**
- **A nested block becomes a statement.**
- **An exception section can contain nested blocks.**
- **The scope of an identifier is that region of a program unit (block, subprogram, or package) from which you can reference the identifier.**

ORACLE

2-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Nested Blocks

One of the advantages that PL/SQL has over SQL is the ability to nest statements. You can nest blocks wherever an executable statement is allowed, thus making the nested block a statement. Therefore, you can break down the executable part of a block into smaller blocks. The exception section can also contain nested blocks.

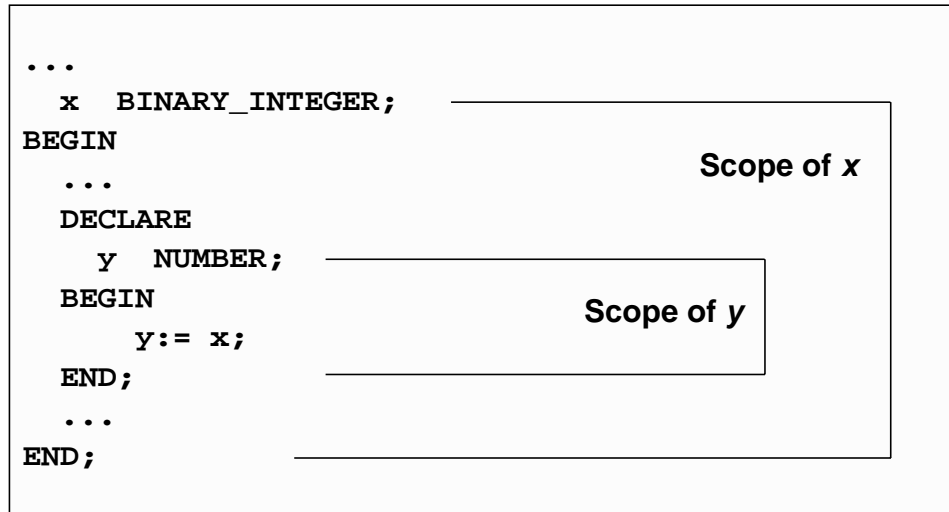
Variable Scope

References to an identifier are resolved according to its scope and visibility. The scope of an identifier is that region of a program unit (block, subprogram, or package) from which you can reference the identifier. An identifier is visible only in the regions from which you can reference the identifier using an unqualified name. Identifiers declared in a PL/SQL block are considered local to that block and global to all its subblocks. If a global identifier is redeclared in a subblock, both identifiers remain in scope. Within the subblock, however, only the local identifier is visible because you must use a qualified name to reference the global identifier.

Although you cannot declare an identifier twice in the same block, you can declare the same identifier in two different blocks. The two items represented by the identifier are distinct, and any change in one does not affect the other. However, a block cannot reference identifiers declared in other blocks at the same level because those identifiers are neither local nor global to the block.

Nested Blocks and Variable Scope

Example:



ORACLE

2-14

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Nested Blocks and Variable Scope

In the nested block shown on the slide, the variable named *y* can reference the variable named *x*. Variable *x*, however, cannot reference variable *y* outside the scope of *y*. If variable *y* in the nested block is given the same name as variable *x* in the outer block, its value is valid only for the duration of the nested block.

Scope

The scope of an identifier is that region of a program unit (block, subprogram, or package) from which you can reference the identifier.

Visibility

An identifier is visible only in the regions from which you can reference the identifier using an unqualified name.

Identifier Scope

An identifier is visible in the regions where you can reference the identifier without having to qualify it:

- **A block can look up to the enclosing block.**
- **A block cannot look down to enclosed blocks.**

ORACLE

2-15

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Identifier Scope

An identifier is visible in the block in which it is declared and in all nested subblocks, procedures, and functions. If the block does not find the identifier declared locally, it looks *up* to the declarative section of the enclosing (or parent) blocks. The block never looks *down* to enclosed (or child) blocks or sideways to sibling blocks.

Scope applies to all declared objects, including variables, cursors, user-defined exceptions, and constants.

Qualify an Identifier

- The qualifier can be the label of an enclosing block.
- Qualify an identifier by using the block label prefix.

```
<<outer>>
  DECLARE
    birthdate DATE;
  BEGIN
    DECLARE
      birthdate DATE;
    BEGIN
      ...
      outer.birthdate :=
        TO_DATE( '03-AUG-1976',
                  'DD-MON-YYYY' );
    END;
  ...
END;
```

ORACLE

Qualify an Identifier

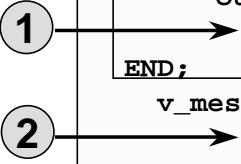
Qualify an identifier by using the block label prefix. In the example on the slide, the outer block is labeled `outer`. In the inner block, a variable with the same name, `birthdate`, as the variable in the outer block is declared. To reference the variable, `birthdate`, from the outer block in the inner block, prefix the variable by the block name, `outer.birthdate`.

For more information on block labels, see *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Fundamentals."

Determining Variable Scope

Class Exercise

```
<<outer>>
DECLARE
  v_sal      NUMBER(7,2) := 60000;
  v_comm     NUMBER(7,2) := v_sal * 0.20;
  v_message  VARCHAR2(255) := ' eligible for commission';
BEGIN
  DECLARE
    v_sal      NUMBER(7,2) := 50000;
    v_comm     NUMBER(7,2) := 0;
    v_total_comp NUMBER(7,2) := v_sal + v_comm;
  BEGIN
    v_message := 'CLERK not' || v_message;
    outer.v_comm := v_sal * 0.30;
  END;
  v_message := 'SALESMAN' || v_message;
END;
```



ORACLE

2-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Class Exercise

Evaluate the PL/SQL block on the slide. Determine each of the following values according to the rules of scoping:

1. The value of V_MESSAGE at position 1.
2. The value of V_TOTAL_COMP at position 2.
3. The value of V_COMM at position 1.
4. The value of outer.V_COMM at position 1.
5. The value of V_COMM at position 2.
6. The value of V_MESSAGE at position 2.

Operators in PL/SQL

- Logical
- Arithmetic
- Concatenation
- Parentheses to control order of operations

} Same as in SQL

- Exponential operator (**)

ORACLE

2-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Order of Operations

The operations within an expression are performed in a particular order depending on their precedence (priority). The following table shows the default order of operations from high priority to low priority:

Operator	Operation
**	Exponentiation
+, -	Identity, negation
*, /	Multiplication, division
+, -,	Addition, subtraction, concatenation
=, <, >, <=, >=, <>, !=, ~=, ^=, IS NULL, LIKE, BETWEEN, IN	Comparison
NOT	Logical negation
AND	Conjunction
OR	Inclusion

Note: It is not necessary to use parentheses with Boolean expressions, but it does make the text easier to read.

Operators in PL/SQL

Examples:

- **Increment the counter for a loop.**

```
v_count      := v_count + 1;
```

- **Set the value of a Boolean flag.**

```
v_equal      := (v_n1 = v_n2);
```

- **Validate whether an employee number contains a value.**

```
v_valid      := (v_empno IS NOT NULL);
```

ORACLE

Operators in PL/SQL

When working with nulls, you can avoid some common mistakes by keeping in mind the following rules:

- Comparisons involving nulls always yield NULL.
- Applying the logical operator NOT to a null yields NULL.
- In conditional control statements, if the condition yields NULL, its associated sequence of statements is not executed.

Programming Guidelines

Make code maintenance easier by:

- **Documenting code with comments**
- **Developing a case convention for the code**
- **Developing naming conventions for identifiers and other objects**
- **Enhancing readability by indenting**

ORACLE

2-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Programming Guidelines

Follow programming guidelines shown on the slide to produce clear code and reduce maintenance when developing a PL/SQL block.

Code Conventions

The following table provides guidelines for writing code in uppercase or lowercase to help you distinguish keywords from named objects.

Category	Case Convention	Examples
SQL statements	Uppercase	SELECT, INSERT
PL/SQL keywords	Uppercase	DECLARE, BEGIN, IF
Datatypes	Uppercase	VARCHAR2, BOOLEAN
Identifiers and parameters	Lowercase	v_sal, emp_cursor, g_sal, p_empno
Database tables and columns	Lowercase	employees, employee_id, department_id

Indenting Code

For clarity, indent each level of code.

Example:

```
BEGIN
  IF x=0 THEN
    y:=1;
  END IF;
END;
```

```
DECLARE
  v_deptno      NUMBER(4);
  v_location_id NUMBER(4);
BEGIN
  SELECT  department_id,
          location_id
  INTO    v_deptno,
          v_location_id
  FROM    departments
  WHERE   department_name
          = 'Sales';

  ...
END;
/
```

ORACLE

2-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Indenting Code

For clarity, and to enhance readability, indent each level of code. To show structure, you can divide lines using carriage returns and indent lines using spaces or tabs. Compare the following IF statements for readability:

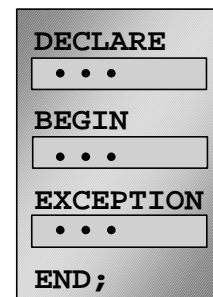
```
IF x>y THEN v_max:=x;ELSE v_max:=y;END IF;
```

```
IF x > y THEN
  v_max := x;
ELSE
  v_max := y;
END IF;
```

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned the following:

- **PL/SQL block syntax and guidelines**
- **How to use identifiers correctly**
- **PL/SQL block structure: nesting blocks and scoping rules**
- **PL/SQL programming:**
 - **Functions**
 - **Data type conversions**
 - **Operators**
 - **Conventions and guidelines**



ORACLE

Summary

Because PL/SQL is an extension of SQL, the general syntax rules that apply to SQL also apply to the PL/SQL language.

Identifiers are used to name PL/SQL program items and units, which include constants, variables, exceptions, cursors, cursor variables, subprograms, and packages.

A block can have any number of nested blocks defined within its executable part. Blocks defined within a block are called subblocks. You can nest blocks only in the executable part of a block.

Most of the functions available in SQL are also valid in PL/SQL expressions. Conversion functions convert a value from one data type to another. Generally, the form of the function follows the *data type TO data type* convention. The first data type is the input data type. The second data type is the output data type.

Comparison operators compare one expression to another. The result is always TRUE, FALSE, or NULL. Typically, you use comparison operators in conditional control statements and in the WHERE clause of SQL data manipulation statements. The relational operators allow you to compare arbitrarily complex expressions.

Variables declared in *iSQL*Plus* are called bind variables. To reference these variables in PL/SQL programs, they should be preceded by a colon.

Practice 2 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Reviewing scoping and nesting rules**
- **Developing and testing PL/SQL blocks**

ORACLE

2-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 2 Overview

This practice reinforces the basics of PL/SQL that were presented in the lesson. The practices use sample PL/SQL blocks and test the understanding of the rules of scoping. Students also write and test PL/SQL blocks.

Paper-Based Questions

Questions 1 and 2 are paper-based questions.

Practice 2

PL/SQL Block

```
DECLARE
    v_weight      NUMBER(3) := 600;
    v_message     VARCHAR2(255) := 'Product 10012';
BEGIN

    DECLARE
        v_weight      NUMBER(3) := 1;
        v_message     VARCHAR2(255) := 'Product 11001';
        v_new_locn    VARCHAR2(50) := 'Europe';
    BEGIN
        v_weight := v_weight + 1;
        v_new_locn := 'Western ' || v_new_locn;

1      →
        END;
        v_weight := v_weight + 1;
        v_message := v_message || ' is in stock';
        v_new_locn := 'Western ' || v_new_locn;

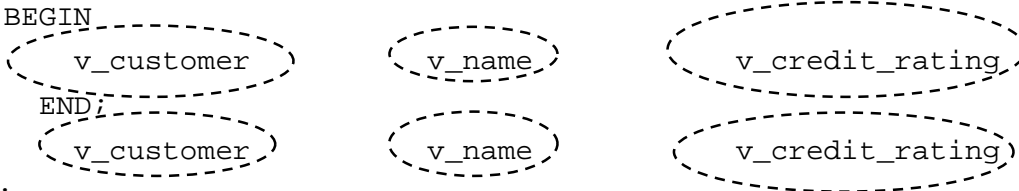
2      →
        END;
    /
```

1. Evaluate the PL/SQL block above and determine the data type and value of each of the following variables according to the rules of scoping.
 - a. The value of V_WEIGHT at position 1 is:
 - b. The value of V_NEW_LOCN at position 1 is:
 - c. The value of V_WEIGHT at position 2 is:
 - d. The value of V_MESSAGE at position 2 is:
 - e. The value of V_NEW_LOCN at position 2 is:

Practice 2 (continued)

Scope Example

```
DECLARE
    v_customer          VARCHAR2(50) := 'Womansport';
    v_credit_rating      VARCHAR2(50) := 'EXCELLENT';
BEGIN
    DECLARE
        v_customer       NUMBER(7) := 201;
        v_name           VARCHAR2(25) := 'Unisports';
    BEGIN
        v_customer
        v_name
        v_credit_rating
    END;
    v_customer
    v_name
    v_credit_rating
END;
/
```



2. Suppose you embed a subblock within a block, as shown above. You declare two variables, V_CUSTOMER and V_CREDIT_RATING, in the main block. You also declare two variables, V_CUSTOMER and V_NAME, in the subblock. Determine the values and data types for each of the following cases.

- The value of V_CUSTOMER in the subblock is:
- The value of V_NAME in the subblock is:
- The value of V_CREDIT_RATING in the subblock is:
- The value of V_CUSTOMER in the main block is:
- The value of V_NAME in the main block is:
- The value of V_CREDIT_RATING in the main block is:

Practice 2 (continued)

3. Create and execute a PL/SQL block that accepts two numbers through *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables.

- a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the two values.

```
DEFINE p_num1 = 2
```

```
DEFINE p_num2 = 4
```

- b. Pass the two values defined in step a above, to the PL/SQL block through *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables. The first number should be divided by the second number and have the second number added to the result. The result should be stored in a PL/SQL variable and printed on the screen.

Note: SET VERIFY OFF in the PL/SQL block.

4.5

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

4. Build a PL/SQL block that computes the total compensation for one year.

- a. The annual salary and the annual bonus percentage values are defined using the DEFINE command.

- b. Pass the values defined in the above step to the PL/SQL block through *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables. The bonus must be converted from a whole number to a decimal (for example, 15 to .15). If the salary is null, set it to zero before computing the total compensation. Execute the PL/SQL block. *Reminder:* Use the NVL function to handle null values.

Note: Total compensation is the sum of the annual salary and the annual bonus.

To test the NVL function, set the DEFINE variable equal to NULL.

```
DEFINE p_salary = 50000
```

```
DEFINE p_bonus = 10
```

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

G_TOTAL	
	55000



Interacting with the Oracle Server

ORACLE®

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Write a successful SELECT statement in PL/SQL**
- **Write DML statements in PL/SQL**
- **Control transactions in PL/SQL**
- **Determine the outcome of SQL data manipulation language (DML) statements**

ORACLE

3-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn to embed standard SQL SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE statements in PL/SQL blocks. You also learn to control transactions and determine the outcome of SQL data manipulation language (DML) statements in PL/SQL.

SQL Statements in PL/SQL

- **Extract a row of data from the database by using the `SELECT` command.**
- **Make changes to rows in the database by using DML commands.**
- **Control a transaction with the `COMMIT`, `ROLLBACK`, or `SAVEPOINT` command.**
- **Determine DML outcome with implicit cursor attributes.**

ORACLE

3-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SQL Statements in PL/SQL

When you extract information from or apply changes to the database, you must use SQL. PL/SQL supports data manipulation language and transaction control commands of SQL. You can use `SELECT` statements to populate variables with values queried from a row in a table. You can use DML commands to modify the data in a database table. However, remember the following points about PL/SQL blocks while using DML statements and transaction control commands in PL/SQL blocks:

- The keyword `END` signals the end of a PL/SQL block, not the end of a transaction. Just as a block can span multiple transactions, a transaction can span multiple blocks.
- PL/SQL does not directly support data definition language (DDL) statements, such as `CREATE TABLE`, `ALTER TABLE`, or `DROP TABLE`.
- PL/SQL does not support data control language (DCL) statements, such as `GRANT` or `REVOKE`.

SELECT Statements in PL/SQL

Retrieve data from the database with a **SELECT** statement.

Syntax:

```
SELECT  select_list
INTO    {variable_name[, variable_name]...
        | record_name}
FROM    table
[WHERE  condition];
```

ORACLE

3-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Retrieving Data Using PL/SQL

Use the **SELECT** statement to retrieve data from the database. In the syntax:

- select_list* is a list of at least one column and can include SQL expressions, row functions, or group functions.
- variable_name* is the scalar variable that holds the retrieved value.
- record_name* is the PL/SQL **RECORD** that holds the retrieved values.
- table* specifies the database table name.
- condition* is composed of column names, expressions, constants, and comparison operators, including PL/SQL variables and constants.

Guidelines for Retrieving Data in PL/SQL

- Terminate each SQL statement with a semicolon (;).
- The **INTO** clause is required for the **SELECT** statement when it is embedded in PL/SQL.
- The **WHERE** clause is optional and can be used to specify input variables, constants, literals, or PL/SQL expressions.

Retrieving Data Using PL/SQL (continued)

- Specify the same number of variables in the `INTO` clause as database columns in the `SELECT` clause. Be sure that they correspond positionally and that their data types are compatible.
- Use group functions, such as `SUM`, in a `SQL` statement, because group functions apply to groups of rows in a table.

SELECT Statements in PL/SQL

- The INTO clause is required.
- Queries must return one and only one row.

Example:

```
DECLARE
  v_deptno          NUMBER(4);
  v_location_id     NUMBER(4);
BEGIN
  SELECT      department_id, location_id
  INTO        v_deptno, v_location_id
  FROM        departments
  WHERE       department_name = 'Sales';
  ...
END;
/
```

ORACLE

3-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SELECT Statements in PL/SQL

INTO Clause

The INTO clause is mandatory and occurs between the SELECT and FROM clauses. It is used to specify the names of variables that hold the values that SQL returns from the SELECT clause. You must specify one variable for each item selected, and the order of the variables must correspond with the items selected.

Use the INTO clause to populate either PL/SQL variables or host variables.

Queries Must Return One and Only One Row

SELECT statements within a PL/SQL block fall into the ANSI classification of embedded SQL, for which the following rule applies: queries must return one and only one row. A query that returns more than one row or no row generates an error.

PL/SQL manages these errors by raising standard exceptions, which you can trap in the exception section of the block with the NO_DATA_FOUND and TOO_MANY_ROWS exceptions (exception handling is covered in a subsequent lesson). Code SELECT statements to return a single row.

Retrieving Data in PL/SQL

Retrieve the hire date and the salary for the specified employee.

Example:

```
DECLARE
  v_hire_date    employees.hire_date%TYPE;
  v_salary       employees.salary%TYPE;
BEGIN
  SELECT   hire_date, salary
  INTO     v_hire_date, v_salary
  FROM     employees
  WHERE    employee_id = 100;
  ...
END;
/
```

ORACLE

3-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Retrieving Data in PL/SQL

In the example on the slide, the variables `v_hire_date` and `v_salary` are declared in the `DECLARE` section of the PL/SQL block. In the executable section, the values of the columns `HIRE_DATE` and `SALARY` for the employee with the `EMPLOYEE_ID` 100 is retrieved from the `EMPLOYEES` table and stored in the `v_hire_date` and `v_salary` variables, respectively. Observe how the `INTO` clause, along with the `SELECT` statement, retrieves the database column values into the PL/SQL variables.

Retrieving Data in PL/SQL

Return the sum of the salaries for all employees in the specified department.

Example:

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
  v_sum_sal    NUMBER(10,2);
  v_deptno     NUMBER NOT NULL := 60;
BEGIN
  SELECT      SUM(salary)  -- group function
  INTO        v_sum_sal
  FROM        employees
  WHERE       department_id = v_deptno;
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('The sum salary is ' ||
                        TO_CHAR(v_sum_sal));
END;
/
```

ORACLE

3-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Retrieving Data in PL/SQL

In the example on the slide, the `v_sum_sal` and `v_deptno` variables are declared in the `DECLARE` section of the PL/SQL block. In the executable section, the total salary for the department with the `DEPARTMENT_ID` 60 is computed using the SQL aggregate function `SUM`, and assigned to the `v_sum_sal` variable. Note that group functions cannot be used in PL/SQL syntax. They are used in SQL statements within a PL/SQL block.

The output of the PL/SQL block in the slide is shown below:

The sum salary is 28800

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

Naming Conventions

```
DECLARE
    hire_date      employees.hire_date%TYPE;
    sysdate        hire_date%TYPE;
    employee_id     employees.employee_id%TYPE := 176;
BEGIN
    SELECT          hire_date, sysdate
    INTO            hire_date, sysdate
    FROM            employees
    WHERE           employee_id = employee_id;
END;
/
```

```
DECLARE
*
ERROR at line 1:
ORA-01422: exact fetch returns more than requested number of rows
ORA-06512: at line 6
```

ORACLE

3-9

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Naming Conventions

In potentially ambiguous SQL statements, the names of database columns take precedence over the names of local variables. The example shown on the slide is defined as follows: Retrieve the hire date and today's date from the EMPLOYEES table for employee ID 176. This example raises an unhandled run-time exception because in the WHERE clause, the PL/SQL variable names are the same as that of the database column names in the EMPLOYEES table.

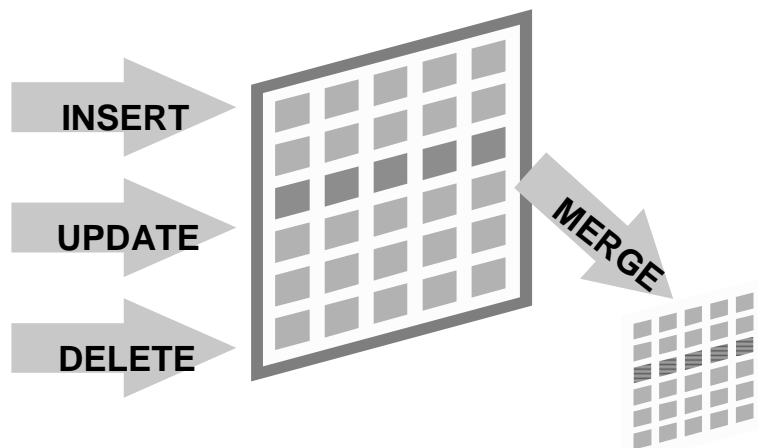
The following DELETE statement removes all employees from the EMPLOYEES table where last name is not null, not just 'King', because the Oracle server assumes that both LAST_NAMES in the WHERE clause refer to the database column:

```
DECLARE
    last_name VARCHAR2(25) := 'King';
BEGIN
    DELETE FROM employees WHERE last_name = last_name;
    . . .
```

Manipulating Data Using PL/SQL

Make changes to database tables by using DML commands:

- **INSERT**
- **UPDATE**
- **DELETE**
- **MERGE**



ORACLE

3-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Manipulating Data Using PL/SQL

You manipulate data in the database by using the DML commands. You can issue the DML commands **INSERT**, **UPDATE**, **DELETE** and **MERGE** without restriction in PL/SQL. Row locks (and table locks) are released by including **COMMIT** or **ROLLBACK** statements in the PL/SQL code.

- The **INSERT** statement adds new rows of data to the table.
- The **UPDATE** statement modifies existing rows in the table.
- The **DELETE** statement removes unwanted rows from the table.
- The **MERGE** statement selects rows from one table to update or insert into another table. The decision whether to update or insert into the target table is based on a condition in the **ON** clause.

Note: **MERGE** is a deterministic statement. That is, you cannot update the same row of the target table multiple times in the same **MERGE** statement. You must have **INSERT** and **UPDATE** object privileges in the target table and the **SELECT** privilege on the source table.

Inserting Data

Add new employee information to the EMPLOYEES table.

Example:

```
BEGIN
  INSERT INTO employees
    (employee_id, first_name, last_name, email,
     hire_date, job_id, salary)
  VALUES
    (employees_seq.NEXTVAL, 'Ruth', 'Cores', 'RCORES',
     sysdate, 'AD_ASST', 4000);
END;
/
```

ORACLE

3-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Inserting Data

In the example on the slide, an INSERT statement is used within a PL/SQL block to insert a record into the EMPLOYEES table. While using the INSERT command in a PL/SQL block, you can:

- Use SQL functions, such as USER and SYSDATE
- Generate primary key values by using database sequences
- Derive values in the PL/SQL block
- Add column default values

Note: There is no possibility for ambiguity with identifiers and column names in the INSERT statement. Any identifier in the INSERT clause must be a database column name.

Updating Data

Increase the salary of all employees who are stock clerks.

Example:

```
DECLARE
    v_sal_increase    employees.salary%TYPE := 800;
BEGIN
    UPDATE            employees
    SET                salary = salary + v_sal_increase
    WHERE              job_id = 'ST_CLERK';
END;
/
```

ORACLE

Updating Data

There may be ambiguity in the SET clause of the UPDATE statement because although the identifier on the left of the assignment operator is always a database column, the identifier on the right can be either a database column or a PL/SQL variable.

Remember that the WHERE clause is used to determine which rows are affected. If no rows are modified, no error occurs, unlike the SELECT statement in PL/SQL.

Note: PL/SQL variable assignments always use :=, and SQL column assignments always use =. Recall that if column names and identifier names are identical in the WHERE clause, the Oracle server looks to the database first for the name.

Deleting Data

Delete rows that belong to department 10 from the EMPLOYEES table.

Example:

```
DECLARE
    v_deptno    employees.department_id%TYPE := 10;
BEGIN
    DELETE FROM    employees
    WHERE          department_id = v_deptno;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

3-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Deleting Data

The DELETE statement removes unwanted rows from a table. Without the use of a WHERE clause, the entire contents of a table can be removed, provided there are no integrity constraints.

Merging Rows

Insert or update rows in the `COPY_EMP` table to match the `EMPLOYEES` table.

```
DECLARE
    v_empno employees.employee_id%TYPE := 100;
BEGIN
MERGE INTO copy_emp c
    USING employees e
    ON (e.employee_id = v_empno)
    WHEN MATCHED THEN
        UPDATE SET
            c.first_name      = e.first_name,
            c.last_name       = e.last_name,
            c.email           = e.email,
            . . .
    WHEN NOT MATCHED THEN
        INSERT VALUES(e.employee_id, e.first_name, e.last_name,
            . . ., e.department_id);
END;
```

ORACLE

Merging Rows

The `MERGE` statement inserts or updates rows in one table, using data from another table. Each row is inserted or updated in the target table, depending upon an equijoin condition.

The example shown matches the `employee_id` in the `COPY_EMP` table to the `employee_id` in the `EMPLOYEES` table. If a match is found, the row is updated to match the row in the `EMPLOYEES` table. If the row is not found, it is inserted into the `COPY_EMP` table.

The complete example for using `MERGE` in a PL/SQL block is shown in the next page.

Merging Data

```
DECLARE
    v_empno EMPLOYEES.EMPLOYEE_ID%TYPE := 100;
BEGIN
MERGE INTO copy_emp c
    USING employees e
    ON (e.employee_id = v_empno)
    WHEN MATCHED THEN
        UPDATE SET
            c.first_name      = e.first_name,
            c.last_name       = e.last_name,
            c.email           = e.email,
            c.phone_number    = e.phone_number,
            c.hire_date       = e.hire_date,
            c.job_id          = e.job_id,
            c.salary          = e.salary,
            c.commission_pct  = e.commission_pct,
            c.manager_id      = e.manager_id,
            c.department_id   = e.department_id
    WHEN NOT MATCHED THEN
        INSERT VALUES(e.employee_id, e.first_name, e.last_name,
            e.email, e.phone_number, e.hire_date, e.job_id,
            e.salary, e.commission_pct, e.manager_id,
            e.department_id);
END;
/
```

Naming Conventions

- **Use a naming convention to avoid ambiguity in the WHERE clause.**
- **Database columns and identifiers should have distinct names.**
- **Syntax errors can arise because PL/SQL checks the database first for a column in the table.**
- **The names of local variables and formal parameters take precedence over the names of database tables.**
- **The names of database table columns take precedence over the names of local variables.**

ORACLE

3-16

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Naming Conventions

Avoid ambiguity in the WHERE clause by adhering to a naming convention that distinguishes database column names from PL/SQL variable names.

- Database columns and identifiers should have distinct names.
- Syntax errors can arise because PL/SQL checks the database first for a column in the table.

Naming Conventions (continued)

The following table shows a set of prefixes and suffixes that distinguish identifiers from other identifiers, database objects, and other named objects.

Identifier	Naming Convention	Example
Variable	v_name	v_sal
Constant	c_name	c_company_name
Cursor	name_cursor	emp_cursor
Exception	e_name	e_too_many
Table type	name_table_type	amount_table_type
Table	name_table	countries
Record type	name_record_type	emp_record_type
Record	name_record	customer_record
iSQL*Plus substitution variable (also referred to as substitution parameter)	p_name	p_sal
iSQL*Plus host or bind variable	g_name	g_year_sal

In such cases, to avoid ambiguity, prefix the names of local variables and formal parameters with v_, as follows:

```
DECLARE
    v_last_name VARCHAR2(25);
```

Note: There is no possibility for ambiguity in the SELECT clause because any identifier in the SELECT clause must be a database column name. There is no possibility for ambiguity in the INTO clause because identifiers in the INTO clause must be PL/SQL variables. There is the possibility of confusion only in the WHERE clause.

SQL Cursor

- A cursor is a private SQL work area.
- There are two types of cursors:
 - Implicit cursors
 - Explicit cursors
- The Oracle server uses implicit cursors to parse and execute your SQL statements.
- Explicit cursors are explicitly declared by the programmer.

ORACLE

3-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SQL Cursor

Whenever you issue a SQL statement, the Oracle server opens an area of memory in which the command is parsed and executed. This area is called a cursor.

When the executable part of a block issues a SQL statement, PL/SQL creates an implicit cursor, which PL/SQL manages automatically. The programmer explicitly declares and names an explicit cursor. There are four attributes available in PL/SQL that can be applied to cursors.

Note: More information about explicit cursors is covered in a subsequent lesson.

For more information, refer to *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Interaction with Oracle."

SQL Cursor Attributes

Using SQL cursor attributes, you can test the outcome of your SQL statements.

SQL%ROWCOUNT	Number of rows affected by the most recent SQL statement (an integer value)
SQL%FOUND	Boolean attribute that evaluates to TRUE if the most recent SQL statement affects one or more rows
SQL%NOTFOUND	Boolean attribute that evaluates to TRUE if the most recent SQL statement does not affect any rows
SQL%ISOPEN	Always evaluates to FALSE because PL/SQL closes implicit cursors immediately after they are executed

ORACLE

SQL Cursor Attributes

SQL cursor attributes allow you to evaluate what happened when an implicit cursor was last used. Use these attributes in PL/SQL statements, but not in SQL statements.

You can use the attributes `SQL%ROWCOUNT`, `SQL%FOUND`, `SQL%NOTFOUND`, and `SQL%ISOPEN` in the exception section of a block to gather information about the execution of a DML statement. PL/SQL does not return an error if a DML statement does not affect any rows in the underlying table. However, if a `SELECT` statement does not retrieve any rows, PL/SQL returns an exception.

SQL Cursor Attributes

Delete rows that have the specified employee ID from the **EMPLOYEES** table. Print the number of rows deleted.

Example:

```
VARIABLE rows_deleted VARCHAR2(30)
DECLARE
    v_employee_id employees.employee_id%TYPE := 176;
BEGIN
    DELETE FROM employees
    WHERE      employee_id = v_employee_id;
    :rows_deleted := (SQL%ROWCOUNT ||
                     ' row deleted. ');
END;
/
PRINT rows_deleted
```

ORACLE

3-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

SQL Cursor Attributes (continued)

The example on the slide deletes the rows from the **EMPLOYEES** table for **EMPLOYEE_ID** 176. Using the **SQL%ROWCOUNT** attribute, you can print the number of rows deleted.

Transaction Control Statements

- **Initiate a transaction with the first DML command to follow a COMMIT or ROLLBACK.**
- **Use COMMIT and ROLLBACK SQL statements to terminate a transaction explicitly.**

ORACLE

3-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Transaction Control Statements

You control the logic of transactions with COMMIT and ROLLBACK SQL statements, rendering some groups of database changes permanent while discarding others. As with Oracle server, DML transactions start at the first command that follows a COMMIT or ROLLBACK, and end on the next successful COMMIT or ROLLBACK. These actions may occur within a PL/SQL block or as a result of events in the host environment (for example, in most cases, ending a *iSQL*Plus* session automatically commits the pending transaction). To mark an intermediate point in the transaction processing, use SAVEPOINT.

```
COMMIT [WORK];
```

```
SAVEPOINT savepoint_name;
```

```
ROLLBACK [WORK];
```

```
ROLLBACK [WORK] TO [SAVEPOINT] savepoint_name;
```

where: WORK is for compliance with ANSI standards.

Note: The transaction control commands are all valid within PL/SQL, although the host environment may place some restriction on their use.

You can also include explicit locking commands (such as LOCK TABLE and SELECT . . . FOR UPDATE) in a block, which stays in effect until the end of the transaction (a subsequent lesson covers more information on the FOR UPDATE command). Also, one PL/SQL block does not necessarily imply one transaction.

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned how to:

- **Embed SQL in the PL/SQL block using `SELECT`, `INSERT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE`, and `MERGE`**
- **Embed transaction control statements in a PL/SQL block `COMMIT`, `ROLLBACK`, and `SAVEPOINT`**

ORACLE

3-22

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

The DML commands `INSERT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE`, and `MERGE` can be used in PL/SQL programs without any restriction. The `COMMIT` statement ends the current transaction and makes permanent any changes made during that transaction. The `ROLLBACK` statement ends the current transaction and cancels any changes that were made during that transaction. `SAVEPOINT` names and marks the current point in the processing of a transaction. With the `ROLLBACK TO SAVEPOINT` statement, you can undo parts of a transaction instead of the whole transaction.

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned the following:

- **There are two cursor types: implicit and explicit.**
- **Implicit cursor attributes are used to verify the outcome of DML statements:**
 - `SQL%ROWCOUNT`
 - `SQL%FOUND`
 - `SQL%NOTFOUND`
 - `SQL%ISOPEN`
- **Explicit cursors are defined by the programmer.**

ORACLE

3-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary (continued)

An implicit cursor is declared by PL/SQL for each SQL data manipulation statement. Every implicit cursor has four attributes: `%FOUND`, `%ISOPEN`, `%NOTFOUND`, and `%ROWCOUNT`. When appended to the cursor or cursor variable, these attributes return useful information about the execution of a DML statement. You can use cursor attributes in procedural statements but not in SQL statements. Explicit cursors are defined by the programmer.

Practice 3 Overview

This practice covers creating a PL/SQL block to:

- **Select data from a table**
- **Insert data into a table**
- **Update data in a table**
- **Delete a record from a table**

ORACLE

3-24

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 3 Overview

In this practice you write PL/SQL blocks to select, input, update, and delete information in a table, using basic SQL query and DML statements within a PL/SQL block.

Practice 3

1. Create a PL/SQL block that selects the maximum department number in the DEPARTMENTS table and stores it in an *iSQL*Plus* variable. Print the results to the screen. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q1.sql`. by clicking the `Save Script` button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.

G_MAX_DEPTNO	
	270

2. Modify the PL/SQL block you created in exercise 1 to insert a new department into the DEPARTMENTS table. Save the PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q2.sql` by clicking the `Save Script` button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.
 - a. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the department name. Name the new department `Education`.
 - b. Pass the value defined for the department name to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable. Rather than printing the department number retrieved from exercise 1, add 10 to it and use it as the department number for the new department.
 - c. Leave the location number as null for now.
 - d. Execute the PL/SQL block.
 - e. Display the new department that you created.

DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
280	Education		

3. Create a PL/SQL block that updates the location ID for the new department that you added in the previous practice. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q3.sql` by clicking the `Save Script` button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.
 - a. Use an *iSQL*Plus* variable for the department ID number that you added in the previous practice.
 - b. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the location ID. Name the new location ID `1700`.

```
DEFINE p_deptno = 280
DEFINE p_loc = 1700
```
 - c. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable. Test the PL/SQL block.
 - d. Display the department that you updated.

DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
280	Education		1700

Practice 3 (continued)

4. Create a PL/SQL block that deletes the department that you created in exercise 2. Save the PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q4.sql`, by clicking the `Save Script` button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.

- a. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the department ID.

```
DEFINE p_deptno=280
```

- b. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a `iSQL*Plus` substitution variable. Print to the screen the number of rows affected.
- c. Test the PL/SQL block.

G_RESULT
1 row(s) deleted.

- d. Confirm that the department has been deleted.

```
no rows selected
```

4

Writing Control Structures

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Identify the uses and types of control structures**
- **Construct an IF statement**
- **Use CASE expressions**
- **Construct and identify different loop statements**
- **Use logic tables**
- **Control block flow using nested loops and labels**

ORACLE

4-2

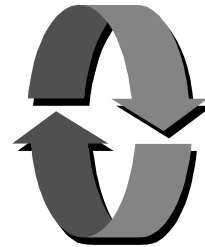
Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn about conditional control within the PL/SQL block by using IF statements and loops.

Controlling PL/SQL Flow of Execution

- You can change the logical execution of statements using conditional `IF` statements and loop control structures.
- Conditional `IF` statements:
 - `IF-THEN-END IF`
 - `IF-THEN-ELSE-END IF`
 - `IF-THEN-ELSIF-END IF`



ORACLE

4-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Controlling PL/SQL Flow of Execution

You can change the logical flow of statements within the PL/SQL block with a number of *control structures*. This lesson addresses three types of PL/SQL control structures: conditional constructs with the `IF` statement, `CASE` expressions, and `LOOP` control structures (covered later in this lesson).

There are three forms of `IF` statements:

- `IF-THEN-END IF`
- `IF-THEN-ELSE-END IF`
- `IF-THEN-ELSIF-END IF`

IF Statements

Syntax:

```
IF condition THEN
    statements;
[ELSIF condition THEN
    statements;]
[ELSE
    statements;]
END IF;
```

If the employee name is Gietz, set the Manager ID to 102.

```
IF UPPER(v_last_name) = 'GIETZ' THEN
    v_mgr := 102;
END IF;
```

ORACLE

IF Statements

The structure of the PL/SQL IF statement is similar to the structure of IF statements in other procedural languages. It allows PL/SQL to perform actions selectively based on conditions.

In the syntax:

<i>condition</i>	is a Boolean variable or expression (TRUE, FALSE, or NULL). (It is associated with a sequence of statements, which is executed only if the expression yields TRUE.)
THEN	is a clause that associates the Boolean expression that precedes it with the sequence of statements that follows it.
<i>statements</i>	can be one or more PL/SQL or SQL statements. (They may include further IF statements containing several nested IF, ELSE, and ELSIF statements.)
ELSIF	is a keyword that introduces a Boolean expression. (If the first condition yields FALSE or NULL then the ELSIF keyword introduces additional conditions.)
ELSE	is a keyword that executes the sequence of statements that follows it if the control reaches it.

Simple IF Statements

If the last name is Vargas:

- Set job ID to SA_REP
- Set department number to 80

```
. . .  
IF v_ename      = 'Vargas' THEN  
    v_job       := 'SA_REP';  
    v_deptno    := 80;  
END IF;  
. . .
```

ORACLE

4-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Simple IF Statements

In the example on the slide, PL/SQL assigns values to the following variables, only if the condition is TRUE:

v_job and v_deptno

If the condition is FALSE or NULL, PL/SQL ignores the statements in the IF block. In either case, control resumes at the next statement in the program following the END IF.

Guidelines

- You can perform actions selectively based on conditions that are being met.
- When writing code, remember the spelling of the keywords:
 - ELSIF is one word.
 - END IF is two words.
- If the controlling Boolean condition is TRUE, the associated sequence of statements is executed; if the controlling Boolean condition is FALSE or NULL, the associated sequence of statements is passed over. Any number of ELSIF clauses are permitted.
- Indent the conditionally executed statements for clarity.

Compound IF Statements

If the last name is Vargas and the salary is more than 6500:

Set department number to 60.

```
. . .  
IF v_ename = 'Vargas' AND salary > 6500 THEN  
    v_deptno := 60;  
END IF;  
. . .
```

ORACLE

4-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Compound IF Statements

Compound IF statements use logical operators like AND and NOT. In the example on the slide, the IF statement has two conditions to evaluate:

- Last name should be Vargas
- Salary should be greater than 6500

Only if both the above conditions are evaluated as TRUE, v_deptno is set to 60.

Consider the following example:

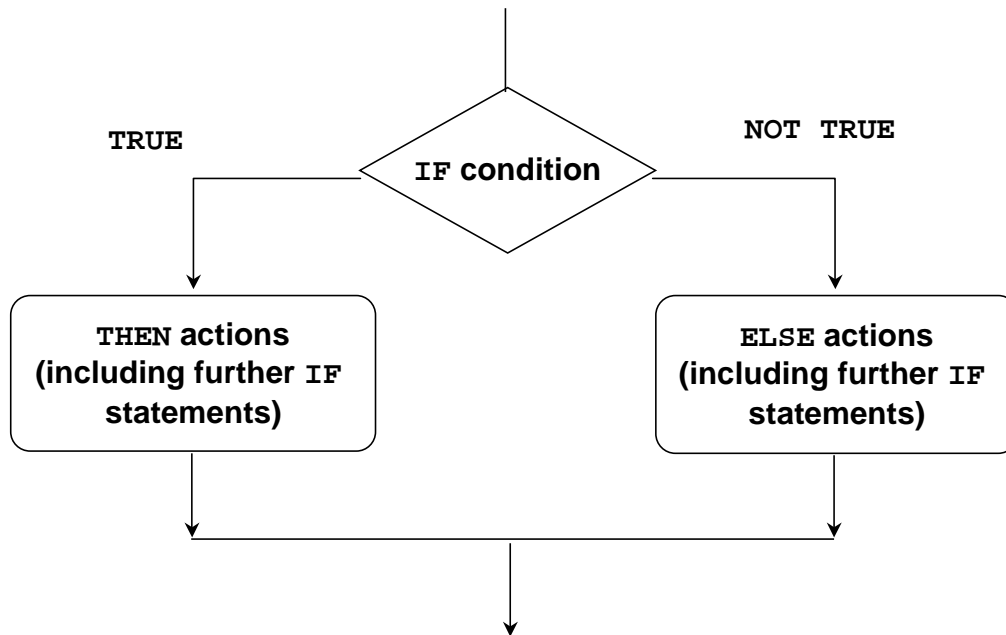
```
. . .  
IF v_department = '60' OR v_hiredate > '01-Dec-1999' THEN  
    v_mgr := 101;  
END IF;  
. . .
```

In the above example, the IF statement has two conditions to evaluate:

- Department ID should be 60
- Hire date should be greater than 01-Dec-1999

If either of the above conditions are evaluated as TRUE, v_mgr is set to 101.

IF-THEN-ELSE Statement Execution Flow



ORACLE

4-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

IF-THEN-ELSE Statement Execution Flow

While writing an IF construct, if the condition is FALSE or NULL, you can use the ELSE clause to carry out other actions. As with the simple IF statement, control resumes in the program from the END IF clause. For example:

```
IF condition1 THEN
    statement1;
ELSE
    statement2;
END IF;
```

Nested IF Statements

Either set of actions of the result of the first IF statement can include further IF statements before specific actions are performed. The THEN and ELSE clauses can include IF statements. Each nested IF statement must be terminated with a corresponding END IF clause.

```
IF condition1 THEN
    statement1;
ELSE
    IF condition2 THEN
        statement2;
    END IF;
END IF;
```

IF-THEN-ELSE Statements

Set a Boolean flag to TRUE if the hire date is greater than five years; otherwise, set the Boolean flag to FALSE.

```
DECLARE
    v_hire_date  DATE := '12-Dec-1990';
    v_five_years BOOLEAN;
BEGIN
    . . .
    IF MONTHS_BETWEEN(SYSDATE,v_hire_date)/12 > 5 THEN
        v_five_years := TRUE;
    ELSE
        v_five_years := FALSE;
    END IF;
    . . .
```

ORACLE

4-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

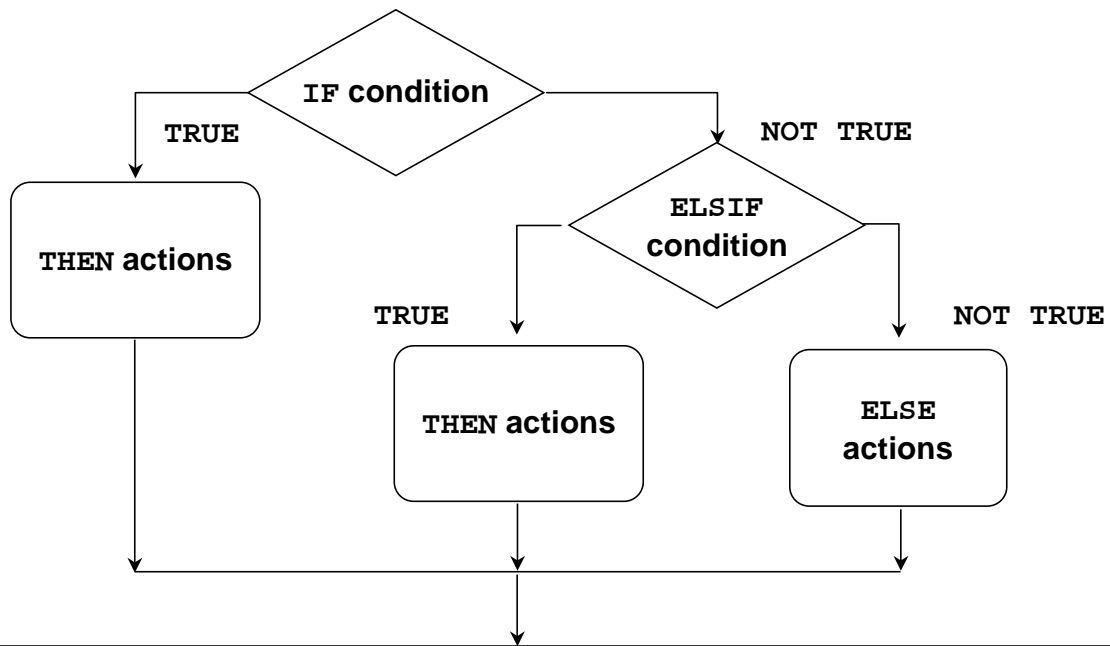
IF-THEN-ELSE Statements: Example

In the example on the slide, the MONTHS_BETWEEN function is used to find out the difference in months between the current date and the v_hire_date variable. Because the result is the difference of the number of months between the two dates, the resulting value is divided by 12 to convert the result into years. If the resulting value is greater than 5, the Boolean flag is set to TRUE; otherwise, the Boolean flag is set to FALSE.

Consider the following example: Check the value in the v_ename variable. If the value is King, set the v_job variable to AD_PRES. Otherwise, set the v_job variable to ST_CLERK.

```
IF v_ename = 'King' THEN
    v_job := 'AD_PRES';
ELSE
    v_job := 'ST_CLERK';
END IF;
```

IF-THEN-ELSIF Statement Execution Flow



ORACLE

4-9

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

IF-THEN-ELSIF Statement Execution Flow

Sometimes you want to select an action from several mutually exclusive alternatives. The third form of IF statement uses the keyword **ELSIF** (not **ELSEIF**) to introduce additional conditions, as follows:

```
IF condition1 THEN
    sequence_of_statements1;
ELSIF condition2 THEN
    sequence_of_statements2;
ELSE
    sequence_of_statements3;
END IF;
```

IF-THEN-ELSIF Statement Execution Flow (continued)

If the first condition is false or null, the **ELSIF** clause tests another condition. An **IF** statement can have any number of **ELSIF** clauses; the final **ELSE** clause is optional. Conditions are evaluated one by one from top to bottom. If any condition is true, its associated sequence of statements is executed and control passes to the next statement. If all conditions are false or null, the sequence in the **ELSE** clause is executed. Consider the following example: Determine an employee's bonus based upon the employee's department.

```
IF v_deptno = 10 THEN
    v_bonus := 5000;
ELSIF v_deptno = 80 THEN
    v_bonus := 7500;
ELSE
    v_bonus := 2000;
END IF;
```

Note: In case of multiple **IF-ELSIF** statements only the first true statement is processed.

IF-THEN-ELSIF Statements

For a given value, calculate a percentage of that value based on a condition.

Example:

```
. . .  
IF      v_start > 100 THEN  
    v_start := 0.2 * v_start;  
ELSIF v_start >= 50 THEN  
    v_start := 0.5 * v_start;  
ELSE  
    v_start := 0.1 * v_start;  
END IF;  
. . .
```

ORACLE

4-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

IF-THEN-ELSIF Statements

When possible, use the ELSIF clause instead of nesting IF statements. The code is easier to read and understand, and the logic is clearly identified. If the action in the ELSE clause consists purely of another IF statement, it is more convenient to use the ELSIF clause. This makes the code clearer by removing the need for nested END IF statements at the end of each further set of conditions and actions.

Example

```
IF condition1 THEN  
    statement1;  
ELSIF condition2 THEN  
    statement2;  
ELSIF condition3 THEN  
    statement3;  
END IF;
```

The example IF-THEN-ELSIF statement above is further defined as follows:

For a given value, calculate a percentage of the original value. If the value is more than 100, then the calculated value is two times the starting value. If the value is between 50 and 100, then the calculated value is 50% of the starting value. If the entered value is less than 50, then the calculated value is 10% of the starting value.

Note: Any arithmetic expression containing null values evaluates to null.

CASE Expressions

- A CASE expression selects a result and returns it.
- To select the result, the CASE expression uses an expression whose value is used to select one of several alternatives.

```
CASE selector
  WHEN expression1 THEN result1
  WHEN expression2 THEN result2
  ...
  WHEN expressionN THEN resultN
  [ELSE resultN+1;]
END;
```

ORACLE

4-12

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

CASE Expressions

A CASE expression selects a result and returns it. To select the result, the CASE expression uses a selector, an expression whose value is used to select one of several alternatives. The selector is followed by one or more WHEN clauses, which are checked sequentially. The value of the selector determines which clause is executed. If the value of the selector equals the value of a WHEN-clause expression, that WHEN clause is executed.

PL/SQL also provides a searched CASE expression, which has the form:

```
CASE
  WHEN search_condition1 THEN result1
  WHEN search_condition2 THEN result2
  ...
  WHEN search_conditionN THEN resultN
  [ELSE resultN+1;]
END;
/
```

A searched CASE expression has no selector. Also, its WHEN clauses contain search conditions that yield a Boolean value, not expressions that can yield a value of any type.

CASE Expressions: Example

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    v_grade CHAR(1) := UPPER('&p_grade');
    v_appraisal VARCHAR2(20);
BEGIN
    v_appraisal :=
        CASE v_grade
            WHEN 'A' THEN 'Excellent'
            WHEN 'B' THEN 'Very Good'
            WHEN 'C' THEN 'Good'
            ELSE 'No such grade'
        END;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Grade: ' || v_grade || '
                          Appraisal ' || v_appraisal);
END;
/
```

ORACLE

4-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

CASE Expressions: Example

In the example on the slide, the CASE expression uses the value in the v_grade variable as the expression. This value is accepted from the user using a substitution variable. Based on the value entered by the user, the CASE expression evaluates the value of the v_appraisal variable based on the value of the v_grade value. The output of the above example will be as follows:

```
old 2: v_grade CHAR(1) := UPPER('&p_grade');
new 2: v_grade CHAR(1) := UPPER('a');
Grade: A Appraisal Excellent
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

CASE Expressions: Example (continued)

If the example on the slide is written using a searched CASE expression it will look like this:
REM When prompted, supply p_grade = a in the code below.

```
DECLARE
    v_grade CHAR(1) := UPPER('&p_grade');
    v_appraisal VARCHAR2(20);
BEGIN
    v_appraisal :=
        CASE
            WHEN v_grade = 'A' THEN 'Excellent'
            WHEN v_grade = 'B' THEN 'Very Good'
            WHEN v_grade = 'C' THEN 'Good'
            ELSE 'No such grade'
        END;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE
    ('Grade: ' || v_grade || ' Appraisal ' || v_appraisal);
END;
/
```

Handling Nulls

When working with nulls, you can avoid some common mistakes by keeping in mind the following rules:

- **Simple comparisons involving nulls always yield NULL.**
- **Applying the logical operator NOT to a null yields NULL.**
- **In conditional control statements, if the condition yields NULL, its associated sequence of statements is not executed.**

ORACLE

4-15

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Handling Nulls

In the following example, you might expect the sequence of statements to execute because *x* and *y* seem unequal. But, nulls are indeterminate. Whether or not *x* is equal to *y* is unknown. Therefore, the IF condition yields NULL and the sequence of statements is bypassed.

```
x := 5;
y := NULL;
...
IF x != y THEN -- yields NULL, not TRUE
    sequence_of_statements; -- not executed
END IF;
```

In the next example, you might expect the sequence of statements to execute because *a* and *b* seem equal. But, again, that is unknown, so the IF condition yields NULL and the sequence of statements is bypassed.

```
a := NULL;
b := NULL;
...
IF a = b THEN -- yields NULL, not TRUE
    sequence_of_statements; -- not executed
END IF;
```

Logic Tables

Build a simple Boolean condition with a comparison operator.

AND	<i>TRUE</i>	<i>FALSE</i>	<i>NULL</i>	OR	<i>TRUE</i>	<i>FALSE</i>	<i>NULL</i>	NOT	
<i>TRUE</i>	TRUE	FALSE	NULL	<i>TRUE</i>	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	<i>TRUE</i>	FALSE
<i>FALSE</i>	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	<i>FALSE</i>	TRUE	FALSE	NULL	<i>FALSE</i>	TRUE
<i>NULL</i>	NULL	FALSE	NULL	<i>NULL</i>	TRUE	NULL	NULL	<i>NULL</i>	NULL

ORACLE

4-16

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Boolean Conditions with Logical Operators

You can build a simple Boolean condition by combining number, character, or date expressions with comparison operators.

You can build a complex Boolean condition by combining simple Boolean conditions with the logical operators AND, OR, and NOT. In the logic tables shown in the slide:

- FALSE takes precedence in an AND condition and TRUE takes precedence in an OR condition.
- AND returns TRUE only if both of its operands are TRUE.
- OR returns FALSE only if both of its operands are FALSE.
- NULL AND TRUE always evaluate to NULL because it is not known whether the second operand evaluates to TRUE or not.

Note: The negation of NULL (NOT NULL) results in a null value because null values are indeterminate.

Boolean Conditions

What is the value of `v_FLAG` in each case?

```
v_flag := v_reorder_flag AND v_available_flag;
```

V_REORDER_FLAG	V_AVAILABLE_FLAG	V_FLAG
TRUE	TRUE	?
TRUE	FALSE	?
NULL	TRUE	?
NULL	FALSE	?

ORACLE

4-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Building Logical Conditions

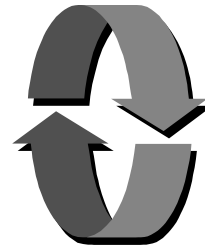
The AND logic table can help you evaluate the possibilities for the Boolean condition on the slide.

Answers

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. NULL
4. FALSE

Iterative Control: LOOP Statements

- Loops repeat a statement or sequence of statements multiple times.
- There are three loop types:
 - Basic loop
 - FOR loop
 - WHILE loop



ORACLE

4-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Iterative Control: LOOP Statements

PL/SQL provides a number of facilities to structure loops to repeat a statement or sequence of statements multiple times.

Looping constructs are the second type of control structure. PL/SQL provides the following types of loops:

- Basic loop that perform repetitive actions without overall conditions
- FOR loops that perform iterative control of actions based on a count
- WHILE loops that perform iterative control of actions based on a condition

Use the EXIT statement to terminate loops.

For more information, refer to *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Control Structures."

Note: Another type of FOR LOOP, cursor FOR LOOP, is discussed in a subsequent lesson.

Basic Loops

Syntax:

<code>LOOP</code>	<code>-- delimiter</code>
<code> <code>statement1</code>;</code>	<code>-- statements</code>
<code> . . .</code>	
<code> EXIT [WHEN <code>condition</code>];</code>	<code>-- EXIT statement</code>
<code>END LOOP;</code>	<code>-- delimiter</code>

<code><i>condition</i></code>	<code>is a Boolean variable or expression (TRUE, FALSE, or NULL);</code>
-------------------------------	--

ORACLE

Basic Loops

The simplest form of LOOP statement is the basic (or infinite) loop, which encloses a sequence of statements between the keywords LOOP and END LOOP. Each time the flow of execution reaches the END LOOP statement, control is returned to the corresponding LOOP statement above it. A basic loop allows execution of its statement at least once, even if the condition is already met upon entering the loop. Without the EXIT statement, the loop would be infinite.

The EXIT Statement

You can use the EXIT statement to terminate a loop. Control passes to the next statement after the END LOOP statement. You can issue EXIT either as an action within an IF statement or as a stand-alone statement within the loop. The EXIT statement must be placed inside a loop. In the latter case, you can attach a WHEN clause to allow conditional termination of the loop. When the EXIT statement is encountered, the condition in the WHEN clause is evaluated. If the condition yields TRUE, the loop ends and control passes to the next statement after the loop. A basic loop can contain multiple EXIT statements.

Basic Loops

Example:

```
DECLARE
    v_country_id    locations.country_id%TYPE := 'CA';
    v_location_id    locations.location_id%TYPE;
    v_counter        NUMBER(2) := 1;
    v_city           locations.city%TYPE := 'Montreal';
BEGIN
    SELECT MAX(location_id) INTO v_location_id FROM locations
    WHERE country_id = v_country_id;
    LOOP
        INSERT INTO locations(location_id, city, country_id)
        VALUES((v_location_id + v_counter),v_city, v_country_id);
        v_counter := v_counter + 1;
        EXIT WHEN v_counter > 3;
    END LOOP;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

4-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Basic Loops (continued)

The basic loop example shown on the slide is defined as follows: Insert three new locations IDs for the country code of CA and the city of Montreal.

Note: A basic loop allows execution of its statements at least once, even if the condition has been met upon entering the loop, provided the condition is placed in the loop so that it is not checked until after these statements. However, if the exit condition is placed at the top of the loop, before any of the other executable statements, and that condition is true, the loop will exit and the statements will never execute.

WHILE Loops

Syntax:

```
WHILE condition LOOP  
    statement1;  
    statement2;  
    . . .  
END LOOP;
```

← Condition is evaluated at the beginning of each iteration.

Use the WHILE loop to repeat statements while a condition is TRUE.

ORACLE

4-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

WHILE Loops

You can use the WHILE loop to repeat a sequence of statements until the controlling condition is no longer TRUE. The condition is evaluated at the start of each iteration. The loop terminates when the condition is FALSE. If the condition is FALSE at the start of the loop, then no further iterations are performed.

In the syntax:

condition is a Boolean variable or expression (TRUE, FALSE, or NULL).

statement can be one or more PL/SQL or SQL statements.

If the variables involved in the conditions do not change during the body of the loop, then the condition remains TRUE and the loop does not terminate.

Note: If the condition yields NULL, the loop is bypassed and control passes to the next statement.

WHILE Loops

Example:

```
DECLARE
  v_country_id      locations.country_id%TYPE := 'CA';
  v_location_id     locations.location_id%TYPE;
  v_city            locations.city%TYPE := 'Montreal';
  v_counter          NUMBER := 1;
BEGIN
  SELECT MAX(location_id) INTO v_location_id FROM locations
  WHERE country_id = v_country_id;
  WHILE v_counter <= 3 LOOP
    INSERT INTO locations(location_id, city, country_id)
    VALUES((v_location_id + v_counter), v_city, v_country_id);
    v_counter := v_counter + 1;
  END LOOP;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

4-22

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

WHILE Loops (continued)

In the example on the slide, three new locations IDs for the country code of CA and the city of Montreal are being added.

With each iteration through the WHILE loop, a counter (`v_counter`) is incremented. If the number of iterations is less than or equal to the number 3, the code within the loop is executed and a row is inserted into the `LOCATIONS` table. After the counter exceeds the number of items for this location, the condition that controls the loop evaluates to `FALSE` and the loop is terminated.

FOR Loops

Syntax:

```
FOR counter IN [REVERSE]
    lower_bound..upper_bound LOOP
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .
END LOOP;
```

- Use a FOR loop to shortcut the test for the number of iterations.
- Do not declare the counter; it is declared implicitly.
- 'lower_bound .. upper_bound' is required syntax.

ORACLE

4-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

FOR Loops

FOR loops have the same general structure as the basic loop. In addition, they have a control statement before the LOOP keyword to determine the number of iterations that PL/SQL performs. In the syntax:

<i>counter</i>	is an implicitly declared integer whose value automatically increases or decreases (decreases if the REVERSE keyword is used) by 1 on each iteration of the loop until the upper or lower bound is reached.
REVERSE	causes the counter to decrement with each iteration from the upper bound to the lower bound. (Note that the lower bound is still referenced first.)
<i>lower_bound</i>	specifies the lower bound for the range of counter values.
<i>upper_bound</i>	specifies the upper bound for the range of counter values.

Do not declare the counter; it is declared implicitly as an integer.

Note: The sequence of statements is executed each time the counter is incremented, as determined by the two bounds. The lower bound and upper bound of the loop range can be literals, variables, or expressions, but must evaluate to integers. The lower bound and upper bound are inclusive in the loop range. If the lower bound of the loop range evaluates to a larger integer than the upper bound, the sequence of statements will not be executed, provided REVERSE has not been used. For example the following, statement is executed only once:

```
FOR i IN 3..3 LOOP statement1; END LOOP;
```

FOR Loops

Insert three new locations IDs for the country code of CA and the city of Montreal.

```
DECLARE
  v_country_id    locations.country_id%TYPE := 'CA';
  v_location_id   locations.location_id%TYPE;
  v_city          locations.city%TYPE := 'Montreal';
BEGIN
  SELECT MAX(location_id) INTO v_location_id
    FROM locations
   WHERE country_id = v_country_id;
  FOR i IN 1..3 LOOP
    INSERT INTO locations(location_id, city, country_id)
      VALUES((v_location_id + i), v_city, v_country_id );
  END LOOP;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

FOR Loops (continued)

The example shown on the slide is defined as follows: Insert three new locations for the country code of CA and the city of Montreal.

This is done using a FOR loop.

FOR Loops

Guidelines

- Reference the counter within the loop only; it is undefined outside the loop.
- Do *not* reference the counter as the target of an assignment.

ORACLE

4-25

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

FOR Loops (continued)

The slide lists the guidelines to follow while writing a FOR Loop.

Note: While writing a FOR loop, the lower and upper bounds of a LOOP statement do not need to be numeric literals. They can be expressions that convert to numeric values.

Example

```
DECLARE
  v_lower          NUMBER := 1;
  v_upper          NUMBER := 100;
BEGIN
  FOR i IN v_lower..v_upper LOOP
    ...
  END LOOP;
END;
```

Guidelines While Using Loops

- Use the basic loop when the statements inside the loop must execute at least once.
- Use the `WHILE` loop if the condition has to be evaluated at the start of each iteration.
- Use a `FOR` loop if the number of iterations is known.

ORACLE

4-26

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Guidelines While Using Loops

A basic loop allows execution of its statement at least once, even if the condition is already met upon entering the loop. Without the `EXIT` statement, the loop would be infinite.

You can use the `WHILE` loop to repeat a sequence of statements until the controlling condition is no longer `TRUE`. The condition is evaluated at the start of each iteration. The loop terminates when the condition is `FALSE`. If the condition is `FALSE` at the start of the loop, then no further iterations are performed.

`FOR` loops have a control statement before the `LOOP` keyword to determine the number of iterations that PL/SQL performs. Use a `FOR` loop if the number of iterations is predetermined.

Nested Loops and Labels

- Nest loops to multiple levels.
- Use labels to distinguish between blocks and loops.
- Exit the outer loop with the `EXIT` statement that references the label.

ORACLE

4-27

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Nested Loops and Labels

You can nest loops to multiple levels. You can nest `FOR`, `WHILE`, and basic loops within one another. The termination of a nested loop does not terminate the enclosing loop unless an exception was raised. However, you can label loops and exit the outer loop with the `EXIT` statement.

Label names follow the same rules as other identifiers. A label is placed before a statement, either on the same line or on a separate line. Label loops by placing the label before the word `LOOP` within label delimiters (`<<label>>`).

If the loop is labeled, the label name can optionally be included after the `END LOOP` statement for clarity.

Nested Loops and Labels

```
...  
BEGIN  
  <<Outer_loop>>  
  LOOP  
    v_counter := v_counter+1;  
    EXIT WHEN v_counter>10;  
    <<Inner_loop>>  
    LOOP  
      ...  
      EXIT Outer_loop WHEN total_done = 'YES';  
      -- Leave both loops  
      EXIT WHEN inner_done = 'YES';  
      -- Leave inner loop only  
      ...  
    END LOOP Inner_loop;  
    ...  
  END LOOP Outer_loop;  
END;
```

ORACLE

Nested Loops and Labels (continued)

In the example on the slide, there are two loops. The outer loop is identified by the label, <<Outer_Loop>> and the inner loop is identified by the label <<Inner_Loop>>. The identifiers are placed before the word LOOP within label delimiters (<<label>>). The inner loop is nested within the outer loop. The label names are included after the END LOOP statement for clarity.

Summary

**In this lesson you should have learned how to:
Change the logical flow of statements by using
control structures.**

- **Conditional (IF statement)**
- **CASE Expressions**
- **Loops:**
 - **Basic loop**
 - **FOR loop**
 - **WHILE loop**
- **EXIT statements**

ORACLE

4-29

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

A conditional control construct checks for the validity of a condition and performs a corresponding action accordingly. You use the IF construct to perform a conditional execution of statements.

An iterative control construct executes a sequence of statements repeatedly, as long as a specified condition holds TRUE. You use the various loop constructs to perform iterative operations.

Practice 4 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Performing conditional actions using the `IF` statement**
- **Performing iterative steps using the loop structure**

ORACLE

4-30

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 4 Overview

In this practice, you create PL/SQL blocks that incorporate loops and conditional control structures. The practices test the understanding of the student about writing various `IF` statements and `LOOP` constructs.

Practice 4

1. Execute the command in the file lab04_1.sql to create the MESSAGES table. Write a PL/SQL block to insert numbers into the MESSAGES table.
 - a. Insert the numbers 1 to 10, excluding 6 and 8.
 - b. Commit before the end of the block.
 - c. Select from the MESSAGES table to verify that your PL/SQL block worked.

RESULTS
1
2
3
4
5
7
9
10

8 rows selected.

2. Create a PL/SQL block that computes the commission amount for a given employee based on the employee's salary.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the employee ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a &SQL*Plus substitution variable.

```
DEFINE p_empno = 100
```
 - b. If the employee's salary is less than \$5,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 10% of the salary.
 - c. If the employee's salary is between \$5,000 and \$10,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 15% of the salary.
 - d. If the employee's salary exceeds \$10,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 20% of the salary.
 - e. If the employee's salary is NULL, display the bonus amount for the employee as 0.
 - f. Test the PL/SQL block for each case using the following test cases, and check each bonus amount.

Note: Include SET VERIFY OFF in your solution.

Employee Number	Salary	Resulting Bonus
100	24000	4800
149	10500	2100
178	7000	1050

Practice 4 (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercises:

3. Create an EMP table that is a replica of the EMPLOYEES table. You can do this by executing the script lab04_3.sql. Add a new column, STARS, of VARCHAR2 data type and length of 50 to the EMP table for storing asterisk (*).

Table altered.

4. Create a PL/SQL block that rewards an employee by appending an asterisk in the STARS column for every \$1000 of the employee's salary. Save your PL/SQL block in a file called p4q4.sql by clicking on the Save Script button. Remember to save the script with a .sql extension.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the employee ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a &SQL*Plus substitution variable.

```
DEFINE p_empno=104
```
 - b. Initialize a v_asterisk variable that contains a NULL.
 - c. Append an asterisk to the string for every \$1000 of the salary amount. For example, if the employee has a salary amount of \$8000, the string of asterisks should contain eight asterisks. If the employee has a salary amount of \$12500, the string of asterisks should contain 13 asterisks.
 - d. Update the STARS column for the employee with the string of asterisks.
 - e. Commit.
 - f. Test the block for the following values:

```
DEFINE p_empno=174  
DEFINE p_empno=176
```
 - g. Display the rows from the EMP table to verify whether your PL/SQL block has executed successfully.

EMPLOYEE_ID	SALARY	STARS
104	6000	*****
174	11000	*****
176	8600	*****

Note: SET VERIFY OFF in the PL/SQL block

5

Working with Composite Data Types

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Create user-defined PL/SQL records**
- **Create a record with the %ROWTYPE attribute**
- **Create an INDEX BY table**
- **Create an INDEX BY table of records**
- **Describe the difference between records, tables, and tables of records**

ORACLE

5-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn more about composite data types and their uses.

Composite Data Types

- **Are of two types:**
 - **PL/SQL RECORDS**
 - **PL/SQL Collections**
 - **INDEX BY Table**
 - **Nested Table**
 - **VARRAY**
- **Contain internal components**
- **Are reusable**

ORACLE

5-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

RECORD and TABLE Data Types

Like scalar variables, composite variables have a data type. Composite data types (also known as collections) are RECORD, TABLE, NESTED TABLE, and VARRAY. You use the RECORD data type to treat related but dissimilar data as a logical unit. You use the TABLE data type to reference and manipulate collections of data as a whole object. The NESTED TABLE and VARRAY data types are covered in the *Advanced PL/SQL* course.

A record is a group of related data items stored as fields, each with its own name and data type. A table contains a column and a primary key to give you array-like access to rows. After they are defined, tables and records can be reused.

For more information, refer to *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Collections and Records."

PL/SQL Records

- **Must contain one or more components of any scalar, RECORD, or INDEX BY table data type, called fields**
- **Are similar in structure to records in a third generation language (3GL)**
- **Are not the same as rows in a database table**
- **Treat a collection of fields as a logical unit**
- **Are convenient for fetching a row of data from a table for processing**

ORACLE

5-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Records

A *record* is a group of related data items stored in *fields*, each with its own name and data type. For example, suppose you have different kinds of data about an employee, such as name, salary, hire date, and so on. This data is dissimilar in type but logically related. A record that contains such fields as the name, salary, and hire date of an employee allows you to treat the data as a logical unit. When you declare a record type for these fields, they can be manipulated as a unit.

- Each record defined can have as many fields as necessary.
- Records can be assigned initial values and can be defined as NOT NULL.
- Fields without initial values are initialized to NULL.
- The DEFAULT keyword can also be used when defining fields.
- You can define RECORD types and declare user-defined records in the declarative part of any block, subprogram, or package.
- You can declare and reference nested records. One record can be the component of another record.

Creating a PL/SQL Record

Syntax:

```
TYPE type_name IS RECORD
    (field_declaration [, field_declaration]...);
identifier    type_name;
```

Where *field_declaration* is:

```
field_name {field_type | variable%TYPE
             | table.column%TYPE | table%ROWTYPE}
[[NOT NULL] {:= | DEFAULT} expr]
```

ORACLE

5-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Defining and Declaring a PL/SQL Record

To create a record, you define a RECORD type and then declare records of that type.

In the syntax:

<i>type_name</i>	is the name of the RECORD type. (This identifier is used to declare records.)
<i>field_name</i>	is the name of a field within the record.
<i>field_type</i>	is the data type of the field. (It represents any PL/SQL data type except REF CURSOR. You can use the %TYPE and %ROWTYPE attributes.)
<i>expr</i>	is the <i>field_type</i> or an initial value.

The NOT NULL constraint prevents assigning nulls to those fields. Be sure to initialize NOT NULL fields.

Creating a PL/SQL Record

Declare variables to store the name, job, and salary of a new employee.

Example:

```
...  
  TYPE emp_record_type IS RECORD  
    (last_name  VARCHAR2(25),  
     job_id     VARCHAR2(10),  
     salary     NUMBER(8,2));  
  emp_record   emp_record_type;  
...
```

ORACLE

5-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Creating a PL/SQL Record

Field declarations are like variable declarations. Each field has a unique name and a specific data type. There are no predefined data types for PL/SQL records, as there are for scalar variables. Therefore, you must create the record type first and then declare an identifier using that type.

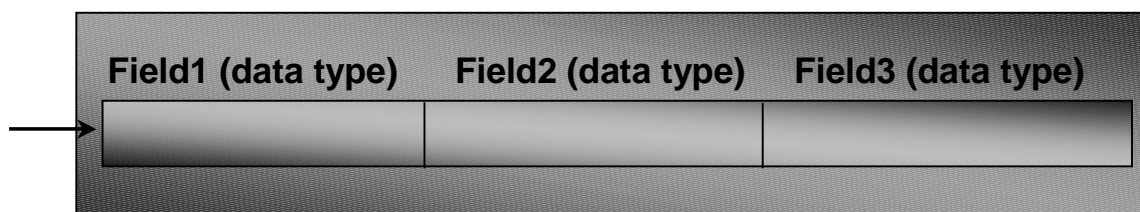
In the example on the slide, a EMP_RECORD_TYPE record type is defined to hold the values for the last_name, job_id, and salary. In the next step, a record EMP_RECORD, of the type EMP_RECORD_TYPE is declared.

The following example shows that you can use the %TYPE attribute to specify a field data type:

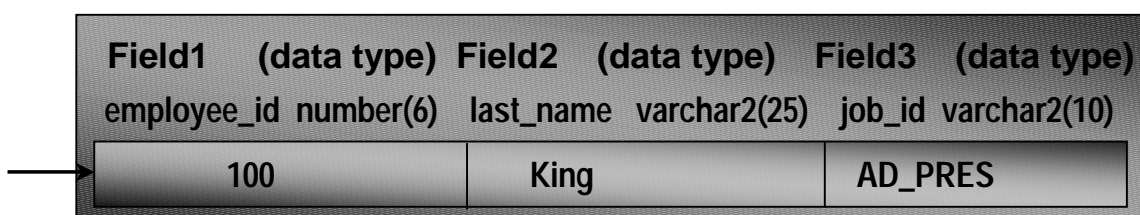
```
DECLARE  
  TYPE emp_record_type IS RECORD  
    (employee_id  NUMBER(6) NOT NULL := 100,  
     last_name    employees.last_name%TYPE,  
     job_id       employees.job_id%TYPE);  
  emp_record     emp_record_type;  
...
```

Note: You can add the NOT NULL constraint to any field declaration to prevent assigning nulls to that field. Remember, fields declared as NOT NULL must be initialized.

PL/SQL Record Structure



Example:



ORACLE

5-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

PL/SQL Record Structure

Fields in a record are accessed by name. To reference or initialize an individual field, use dot notation and the following syntax:

```
record_name.field_name
```

For example, you reference the `job_id` field in the `emp_record` record as follows:

```
emp_record.job_id ...
```

You can then assign a value to the record field as follows:

```
emp_record.job_id := 'ST_CLERK';
```

In a block or subprogram, user-defined records are instantiated when you enter the block or subprogram and cease to exist when you exit the block or subprogram.

The %ROWTYPE Attribute

- **Declare a variable according to a collection of columns in a database table or view.**
- **Prefix %ROWTYPE with the database table.**
- **Fields in the record take their names and data types from the columns of the table or view.**

ORACLE

5-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring Records with the %ROWTYPE Attribute

To declare a record based on a collection of columns in a database table or view, you use the %ROWTYPE attribute. The fields in the record take their names and data types from the columns of the table or view. The record can also store an entire row of data fetched from a cursor or cursor variable.

In the following example, a record is declared using %ROWTYPE as a data type specifier.

```
DECLARE
    emp_record      employees%ROWTYPE;
    ...
```

The emp_record record will have a structure consisting of the following fields, each representing a column in the EMPLOYEES table.

Note: This is not code, but simply the structure of the composite variable.

employee_id	NUMBER(6),
first_name	VARCHAR2(20),
last_name	VARCHAR2(20),
email	VARCHAR2(20),
phone_number	VARCHAR2(20),
hire_date	DATE,
salary	NUMBER(8,2),
commission_pct	NUMBER(2,2),
manager_id	NUMBER(6),
department_id	NUMBER(4)

Declaring Records with the %ROWTYPE Attribute (continued)

Syntax

DECLARE

 identifier reference%ROWTYPE;

where: *identifier* is the name chosen for the record as a whole.
 reference is the name of the table, view, cursor, or cursor
 variable on which the record is to be based. The table or view must
 exist for this reference to be valid.

To reference an individual field, you use dot notation and the following syntax:

 record_name.field_name

For example, you reference the `commission_pct` field in the `emp_record` record as follows:

 emp_record.commission_pct

You can then assign a value to the record field as follows:

 emp_record.commission_pct:= .35;

Assigning Values to Records

You can assign a list of common values to a record by using the `SELECT` or `FETCH` statement. Make sure that the column names appear in the same order as the fields in your record. You can also assign one record to another if they have the same data type. A user-defined record and a `%ROWTYPE` record *never* have the same data type.

Advantages of Using %ROWTYPE

- The number and data types of the underlying database columns need not be known.
- The number and data types of the underlying database column may change at run time.
- The attribute is useful when retrieving a row with the `SELECT *` statement.

ORACLE

5-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Advantages of Using %ROWTYPE

The advantages of using the %ROWTYPE attribute are listed on the slide. Use the %ROWTYPE attribute when you are not sure about the structure of the underlying database table. Using this attribute also ensures that the data types of the variables declared using this attribute change dynamically, in case the underlying table is altered. This attribute is particularly useful when you want to retrieve an entire row from a table. In the absence of this attribute, you would be forced to declare a variable for each of the columns retrieved by the `SELECT *` statement.

The %ROWTYPE Attribute

Examples:

Declare a variable to store the information about a department from the DEPARTMENTS table.

```
dept_record    departments%ROWTYPE;
```

Declare a variable to store the information about an employee from the EMPLOYEES table.

```
emp_record    employees%ROWTYPE;
```

ORACLE

5-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The %ROWTYPE Attribute

The first declaration on the slide creates a record with the same field names and field data types as a row in the DEPARTMENTS table. The fields are DEPARTMENT_ID, DEPARTMENT_NAME, MANAGER_ID, and LOCATION_ID. The second declaration creates a record with the same field names, field data types, and order as a row in the EMPLOYEES table. The fields are EMPLOYEE_ID, FIRST_NAME, LAST_NAME, EMAIL, PHONE_NUMBER, HIRE_DATE, JOB_ID, SALARY, COMMISSION_PCT, MANAGER_ID, DEPARTMENT_ID.

The %ROWTYPE Attribute (continued)

In the following example, an employee is retiring. Information about a retired employee is added to a table that holds information about retired employees. The user supplies the employee's number. The record of the employee specified by the user is retrieved from the EMPLOYEES and stored into the emp_rec variable, which is declared using the %ROWTYPE attribute.

```
DEFINE employee_number = 124

DECLARE
    emp_rec    employees%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
    SELECT * INTO emp_rec
    FROM employees
    WHERE employee_id = &employee_number;
    INSERT INTO retired_ems(empno, ename, job, mgr, hiredate,
                           leavedate, sal, comm, deptno)
    VALUES (emp_rec.employee_id, emp_rec.last_name, emp_rec.job_id,
            emp_rec.manager_id, emp_rec.hire_date, SYSDATE, emp_rec.salary,
            emp_rec.commission_pct, emp_rec.department_id);
    COMMIT;
END;
/
```

The record that is inserted into the RETIRED_EMPS table is shown below:

```
SELECT * FROM RETIRED_EMPS;
```

EMPNO	ENAME	JOB	MGR	HIREDATE	LEAVEDATE	SAL	COMM	DEPTNO
124	Mourgos	ST_MAN	100	16-NOV-99	24-SEP-01	5800		50

INDEX BY Tables

- **Are composed of two components:**
 - **Primary key of data type `BINARY_INTEGER`**
 - **Column of scalar or record data type**
- **Can increase in size dynamically because they are unconstrained**

ORACLE

5-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

INDEX BY Tables

Objects of the `TABLE` type are called `INDEX BY` tables. They are modeled as (but not the same as) database tables. `INDEX BY` tables use a primary key to provide you with array-like access to rows.

A `INDEX BY` table:

- Is similar to an array
- Must contain two components:
 - A primary key of data type `BINARY_INTEGER` that indexes the `INDEX BY` table
 - A column of a scalar or record data type, which stores the `INDEX BY` table elements
- Can increase dynamically because it is unconstrained

Creating an INDEX BY Table

Syntax:

```
TYPE type_name IS TABLE OF
    {column_type | variable%TYPE
    | table.column%TYPE} [NOT NULL]
    | table.%ROWTYPE
    [INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER];
identifier    type_name;
```

Declare an INDEX BY table to store names.

Example:

```
...
TYPE ename_table_type IS TABLE OF
                                employees.last_name%TYPE
    INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
ename_table ename_table_type;
...
```

ORACLE

5-14

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Creating a INDEX BY Table

There are two steps involved in creating a INDEX BY table.

1. Declare a TABLE data type.
2. Declare a variable of that data type.

In the syntax:

<i>type_name</i>	is the name of the TABLE type. (It is a type specifier used in subsequent declarations of PL/SQL tables.)
<i>column_type</i>	is any scalar (scalar and composite) data type such as VARCHAR2, DATE, NUMBER or %TYPE. (You can use the %TYPE attribute to provide the column datatype.)
<i>identifier</i>	is the name of the identifier that represents an entire PL/SQL table.

The NOT NULL constraint prevents nulls from being assigned to the PL/SQL table of that type. Do not initialize the INDEX BY table.

INDEX-BY tables can have the following element types: BINARY_INTEGER, BOOLEAN, LONG, LONG RAW, NATURAL, NATURALN, PLS_INTEGER, POSITIVE, POSITIVEN, SIGNTYPE, and STRING. INDEX-BY tables are initially sparse. That enables you, for example, to store reference data in an INDEX-BY table using a numeric primary key as the index.

INDEX BY Table Structure

Unique identifier

...
1
2
3
...

BINARY_INTEGER

Column

...
Jones
Smith
Maduro
...

Scalar

ORACLE

INDEX BY Table Structure

Like the size of a database table, the size of a INDEX BY table is unconstrained. That is, the number of rows in a INDEX BY table can increase dynamically, so that your INDEX BY table grows as new rows are added.

INDEX BY tables can have one column and a unique identifier to that one column, neither of which can be named. The column can belong to any scalar or record data type, but the primary key must belong to type BINARY_INTEGER. You cannot initialize an INDEX BY table in its declaration. An INDEX BY table is not populated at the time of declaration. It contains no keys or no values. An explicit executable statement is required to initialize (populate) the INDEX BY table.

Creating an INDEX BY Table

```
DECLARE
  TYPE ename_table_type IS TABLE OF
    employees.last_name%TYPE
    INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
  TYPE hiredate_table_type IS TABLE OF DATE
    INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
  ename_table          ename_table_type;
  hiredate_table       hiredate_table_type;
BEGIN
  ename_table(1)       := 'CAMERON';
  hiredate_table(8)    := SYSDATE + 7;
  IF ename_table.EXISTS(1) THEN
    INSERT INTO ...
    ...
END;
/
```

ORACLE

5-16

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Referencing an INDEX BY Table

Syntax:

INDEX_BY_table_name(primary_key_value)

where: *primary_key_value* belongs to type BINARY_INTEGER.

Reference the third row in an INDEX BY table ENAME_TABLE:

ename_table(3) ...

The magnitude range of a BINARY_INTEGER is -2147483647 ... 2147483647, so the primary key value can be negative. Indexing does not need to start with 1.

Note: The *table.EXISTS(i)* statement returns TRUE if a row with index *i* is returned. Use the EXISTS statement to prevent an error that is raised in reference to a nonexisting table element.

Using INDEX BY Table Methods

The following methods make INDEX BY tables easier to use:

- EXISTS
- COUNT
- FIRST and LAST
- PRIOR
- NEXT
- TRIM
- DELETE

ORACLE

5-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Using INDEX BY Table Methods

A INDEX BY table method is a built-in procedure or function that operates on tables and is called using dot notation.

Syntax: *table_name.method_name* [(*parameters*)]

Method	Description
EXISTS(<i>n</i>)	Returns TRUE if the <i>n</i> th element in a PL/SQL table exists
COUNT	Returns the number of elements that a PL/SQL table currently contains
FIRST LAST	Returns the first and last (smallest and largest) index numbers in a PL/SQL table. Returns NULL if the PL/SQL table is empty.
PRIOR(<i>n</i>)	Returns the index number that precedes index <i>n</i> in a PL/SQL table
NEXT(<i>n</i>)	Returns the index number that succeeds index <i>n</i> in a PL/SQL table
TRIM	TRIM removes one element from the end of a PL/SQL table. TRIM(<i>n</i>) removes <i>n</i> elements from the end of a PL/SQL table.
DELETE	DELETE removes all elements from a PL/SQL table. DELETE(<i>n</i>) removes the <i>n</i> th element from a PL/SQL table. DELETE(<i>m</i> , <i>n</i>) removes all elements in the range <i>m</i> ... <i>n</i> from a PL/SQL table.

INDEX BY Table of Records

- Define a **TABLE** variable with a permitted **PL/SQL** data type.
- Declare a **PL/SQL** variable to hold department information.

Example:

```
DECLARE
  TYPE dept_table_type IS TABLE OF
    departments%ROWTYPE
    INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
  dept_table dept_table_type;
  -- Each element of dept_table is a record
```

ORACLE

5-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

INDEX BY Table of Records

At a given point of time, a **INDEX BY** table can store only the details of any one of the columns of a database table. There is always a necessity to store all the columns retrieved by a query. The **INDEX BY** table of records offer a solution to this. Because only one table definition is needed to hold information about all of the fields of a database table, the table of records greatly increases the functionality of **INDEX BY** tables.

Referencing a Table of Records

In the example given on the slide, you can refer to fields in the **DEPT_TABLE** record because each element of this table is a record.

Syntax:

```
table(index).field
```

Example:

```
dept_table(15).location_id := 1700;
```

LOCATION_ID represents a field in **DEPT_TABLE**.

Note: You can use the **%ROWTYPE** attribute to declare a record that represents a row in a database table. The difference between the **%ROWTYPE** attribute and the composite data type **RECORD** is that **RECORD** allows you to specify the data types of fields in the record or to declare fields of your own.

Example of INDEX BY Table of Records

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    TYPE emp_table_type is table of
        employees%ROWTYPE INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
    my_emp_table    emp_table_type;
    v_count         NUMBER(3) := 104;
BEGIN
    FOR i IN 100..v_count
    LOOP
        SELECT * INTO my_emp_table(i) FROM employees
            WHERE employee_id = i;
    END LOOP;
    FOR i IN my_emp_table.FIRST..my_emp_table.LAST
    LOOP
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(my_emp_table(i).last_name);
    END LOOP;
END;
```

ORACLE

Example INDEX BY Table of Records

The example on the slide declares a INDEX BY table of records `emp_table_type` to temporarily store the details of the employees whose `EMPLOYEE_ID` lies between 100 and 104. Using a loop, the information of the employees from the `EMPLOYEES` table is retrieved and stored in the INDEX BY table. Another loop is used to print the information regarding the last names from the INDEX BY table. Observe the use of the `FIRST` and `LAST` methods in the example.

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- **Define and reference PL/SQL variables of composite data types:**
 - **PL/SQL records**
 - **INDEX BY tables**
 - **INDEX BY table of records**
- **Define a PL/SQL record by using the %ROWTYPE attribute**

ORACLE

5-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

A PL/SQL record is a collection of individual fields that represent a row in a table. By using records you can group the data into one structure and then manipulate this structure as one entity or logical unit. This helps reduce coding, and keeps the code easier to maintain and understand.

Like PL/SQL records, the table is another composite data type. INDEX BY tables are objects of a TABLE type and look similar to database tables but with a slight difference. INDEX BY tables use a primary key to give you array-like access to rows. The size of a INDEX BY table is unconstrained. INDEX BY tables can have one column and a primary key, neither of which can be named. The column can have any data type, but the primary key must be of the BINARY_INTEGER type.

A INDEX BY table of records enhances the functionality of INDEX BY tables, because only one table definition is required to hold information about all the fields.

The following collection methods help generalize code, make collections easier to use, and make your applications easier to maintain:

EXISTS, COUNT, LIMIT, FIRST and LAST, PRIOR and NEXT, TRIM, and DELETE

The %ROWTYPE is used to declare a compound variable whose type is the same as that of a row of a database table.

Practice 5 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Declaring `INDEX BY` tables
- Processing data by using `INDEX BY` tables
- Declaring a PL/SQL record
- Processing data by using a PL/SQL record

ORACLE

5-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 5 Overview

In this practice, you define, create, and use `INDEX BY` tables and a PL/SQL record.

Practice 5

1. Write a PL/SQL block to print information about a given country.
 - a. Declare a PL/SQL record based on the structure of the COUNTRIES table.
 - b. Use the DEFINE command to provide the country ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable.
 - c. Use DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE to print selected information about the country. A sample output is shown below.

```
Country Id: CA Country Name: Canada Region: 2
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

- d. Execute and test the PL/SQL block for the countries with the IDs CA, DE, UK, US.
2. Create a PL/SQL block to retrieve the name of each department from the DEPARTMENTS table and print each department name on the screen, incorporating an INDEX BY table. Save the code in a file called p5q2.sql by clicking the Save Script button. Save the script with a .sql extension.
 - a. Declare an INDEX BY table, MY_DEPT_TABLE, to temporarily store the name of the departments.
 - b. Using a loop, retrieve the name of all departments currently in the DEPARTMENTS table and store them in the INDEX BY table. Use the following table to assign the value for DEPARTMENT_ID based on the value of the counter used in the loop.

COUNTER	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	10
2	20
3	50
4	60
5	80
6	90
7	110

- c. Using another loop, retrieve the department names from the INDEX BY table and print them to the screen, using DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE. The output from the program is shown on the next page.

Practice 5 (continued)

Administration

Marketing

Shipping

IT

Sales

Executive

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

Accounting

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

Practice 5 (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercise.

3. Modify the block you created in practice 2 to retrieve all information about each department from the DEPARTMENTS table and print the information to the screen, incorporating an INDEX BY table of records.
 - a. Declare an INDEX BY table, MY_DEPT_TABLE, to temporarily store the number, name, and location of all the departments.
 - b. Using a loop, retrieve all department information currently in the DEPARTMENTS table and store it in the INDEX BY table. Use the following table to assign the value for DEPARTMENT_ID based on the value of the counter used in the loop. Exit the loop when the counter reaches the value 7.

COUNTER	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	10
2	20
3	50
4	60
5	80
6	90
7	110

- c. Using another loop, retrieve the department information from the INDEX BY table and print it to the screen, using DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE. A sample output is shown.

```
Department Number: 10 Department Name: Administration Manager Id: 200 Location Id: 1700
Department Number: 20 Department Name: Marketing Manager Id: 201 Location Id: 1800
Department Number: 50 Department Name: Shipping Manager Id: 121 Location Id: 1500
Department Number: 60 Department Name: IT Manager Id: 103 Location Id: 1400
Department Number: 80 Department Name: Sales Manager Id: 145 Location Id: 2500
Department Number: 90 Department Name: Executive Manager Id: 100 Location Id: 1700
Department Number: 110 Department Name: Accounting Manager Id: 205 Location Id: 1700
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

6

Writing Explicit Cursors

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Distinguish between an implicit and an explicit cursor**
- **Discuss when and why to use an explicit cursor**
- **Use a PL/SQL record variable**
- **Write a cursor `FOR` loop**

ORACLE

6-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn the difference between implicit and explicit cursors. You also learn when and why to use an explicit cursor. You may need to use a multiple-row `SELECT` statement in PL/SQL to process many rows. To accomplish this, you declare and control explicit cursors.

About Cursors

Every SQL statement executed by the Oracle Server has an individual cursor associated with it:

- **Implicit cursors: Declared for all DML and PL/SQL `SELECT` statements**
- **Explicit cursors: Declared and named by the programmer**

ORACLE

6-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

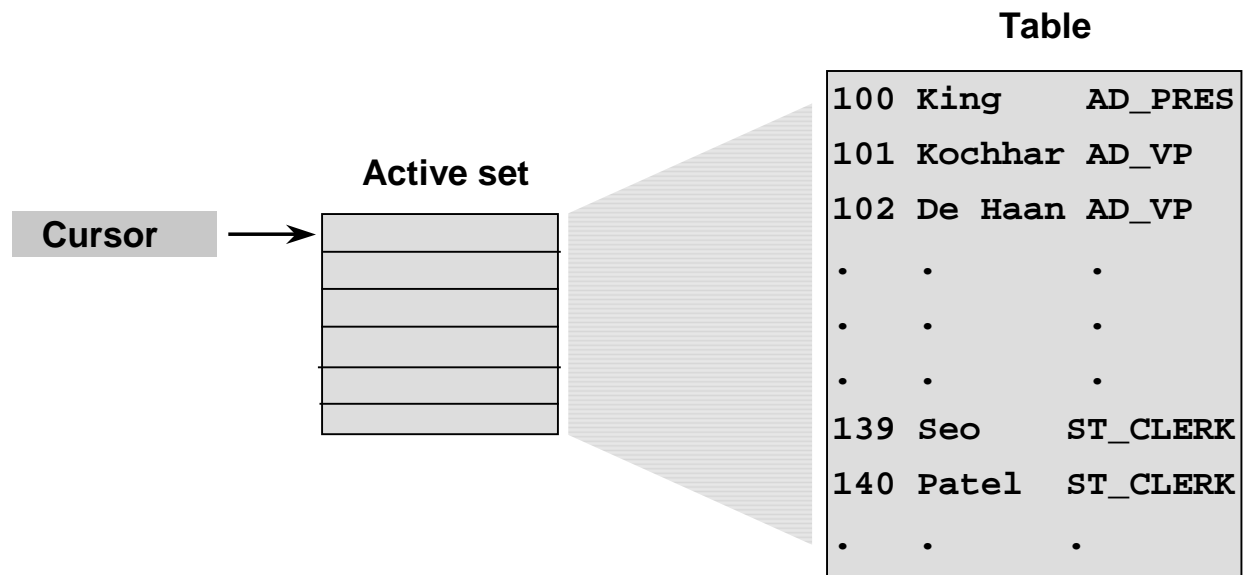
Implicit and Explicit Cursors

The Oracle server uses work areas, called private SQL areas, to execute SQL statements and to store processing information. You can use PL/SQL cursors to name a private SQL area and access its stored information.

Cursor Type	Description
Implicit	Implicit cursors are declared by PL/SQL implicitly for all DML and PL/SQL <code>SELECT</code> statements, including queries that return only one row.
Explicit	For queries that return more than one row, explicit cursors are declared and named by the programmer and manipulated through specific statements in the block's executable actions.

The Oracle server implicitly opens a cursor to process each SQL statement not associated with an explicitly declared cursor. PL/SQL allows you to refer to the most recent implicit cursor as the *SQL* cursor.

Explicit Cursor Functions



ORACLE

6-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Explicit Cursors

Use explicit cursors to individually process each row returned by a multiple-row `SELECT` statement.

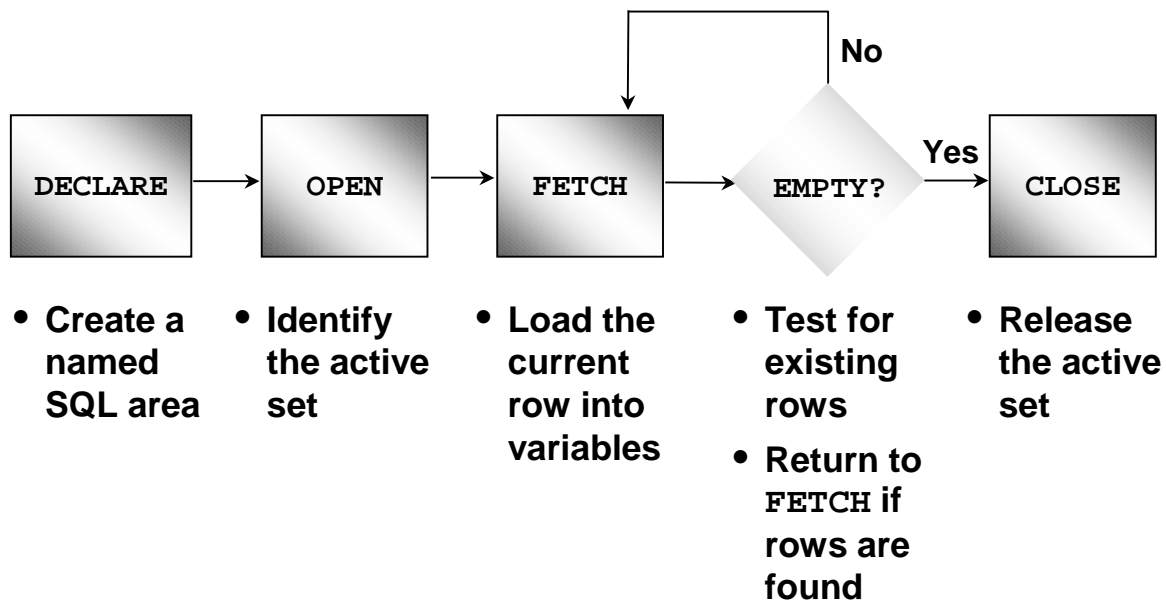
The set of rows returned by a multiple-row query is called the active set. Its size is the number of rows that meet your search criteria. The diagram on the slide shows how an explicit cursor “points” to the *current row* in the active set. This allows your program to process the rows one at a time.

A PL/SQL program opens a cursor, processes rows returned by a query, and then closes the cursor. The cursor marks the current position in the active set.

Explicit cursor functions:

- Can process beyond the first row returned by the query, row by row
- Keep track of which row is currently being processed
- Allow the programmer to manually control explicit cursors in the PL/SQL block

Controlling Explicit Cursors



ORACLE

6-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Explicit Cursors (continued)

Now that you have a conceptual understanding of cursors, review the steps to use them. The syntax for each step can be found on the following pages.

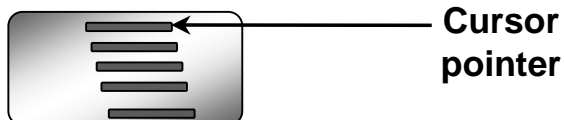
Controlling Explicit Cursors

1. Declare the cursor by naming it and defining the structure of the query to be performed within it.
2. Open the cursor. The **OPEN** statement executes the query and binds any variables that are referenced. Rows identified by the query are called the active set and are now available for fetching.
3. Fetch data from the cursor. In the flow diagram shown on the slide, after each fetch you test the cursor for any existing row. If there are no more rows to process, then you must close the cursor.
4. Close the cursor. The **CLOSE** statement releases the active set of rows. It is now possible to reopen the cursor to establish a fresh active set.

Controlling Explicit Cursors

1. Open the cursor
2. Fetch a row
3. Close the Cursor

1. Open the cursor.



Explicit Cursors (continued)

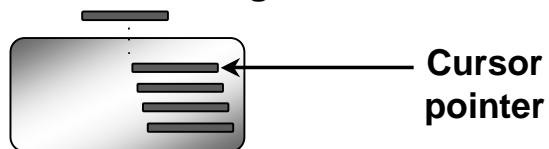
You use the `OPEN`, `FETCH`, and `CLOSE` statements to control a cursor.

The `OPEN` statement executes the query associated with the cursor, identifies the result set, and positions the cursor before the first row.

Controlling Explicit Cursors

1. Open the cursor
2. Fetch a row
3. Close the Cursor

2. Fetch a row using the cursor.



Continue until empty.

ORACLE

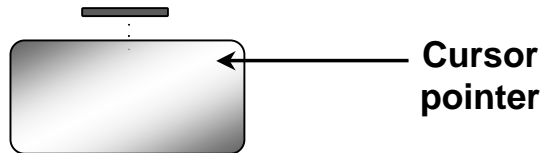
Explicit Cursors (continued)

The `FETCH` statement retrieves the current row and advances the cursor to the next row until either there are no more rows or until the specified condition is met.

Controlling Explicit Cursors

1. Open the cursor
2. Fetch a row
3. Close the Cursor

3. Close the cursor.



Explicit Cursors (continued)

Close the cursor when the last row has been processed. The `CLOSE` statement disables the cursor.

Declaring the Cursor

Syntax:

```
CURSOR cursor_name IS  
    select_statement;
```

- Do not include the **INTO** clause in the cursor declaration.
- If processing rows in a specific sequence is required, use the **ORDER BY** clause in the query.

ORACLE

6-9

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring the Cursor

Use the **CURSOR** statement to declare an explicit cursor. You can reference variables within the query, but you must declare them before the **CURSOR** statement.

In the syntax:

cursor_name is a PL/SQL identifier.

select_statement is a **SELECT** statement without an **INTO** clause.

Note

- Do not include the **INTO** clause in the cursor declaration because it appears later in the **FETCH** statement.
- The cursor can be any valid **ANSI SELECT** statement, to include joins, and so on.

Declaring the Cursor

Example:

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM   employees;

  CURSOR dept_cursor IS
    SELECT *
    FROM   departments
    WHERE  location_id = 170;
BEGIN
  ...
```

ORACLE

6-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Declaring the Cursor (continued)

In the example on the slide, the cursor `emp_cursor` is declared to retrieve the `EMPLOYEE_ID` and `LAST_NAME` columns from the `EMPLOYEES` table. Similarly, the cursor `DEPT_CURSOR` is declared to retrieve all the details for the department with the `LOCATION_ID` 170.

```
DECLARE
  v_empno    employees.employee_id%TYPE;
  v_ename    employees.last_name%TYPE;
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM   employees;
BEGIN
  ...
```

Fetching the values retrieved by the cursor into the variables declared in the `DECLARE` section is covered later in this lesson.

Opening the Cursor

Syntax:

```
OPEN cursor_name;
```

- **Open the cursor to execute the query and identify the active set.**
- **If the query returns no rows, no exception is raised.**
- **Use cursor attributes to test the outcome after a fetch.**

ORACLE

6-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

OPEN Statement

The OPEN statement executes the query associated with the cursor, identifies the result set, and positions the cursor before the first row.

In the syntax:

cursor_name is the name of the previously declared cursor.

OPEN is an executable statement that performs the following operations:

1. Dynamically allocates memory for a context area that eventually contains crucial processing information.
2. Parses the SELECT statement.
3. Binds the input variables—sets the value for the input variables by obtaining their memory addresses.
4. Identifies the active set—the set of rows that satisfy the search criteria. Rows in the active set are not retrieved into variables when the OPEN statement is executed. Rather, the FETCH statement retrieves the rows.
5. Positions the pointer just before the first row in the active set.

For cursors declared using the FOR UPDATE clause, the OPEN statement also locks those rows. The FOR UPDATE clause is discussed in a later lesson.

Note: If the query returns no rows when the cursor is opened, PL/SQL does not raise an exception. However, you can test the status of the cursor after a fetch using the SQL%ROWCOUNT cursor attribute.

Fetching Data from the Cursor

Syntax:

```
FETCH cursor_name INTO [variable1, variable2, ...]  
                        / record_name];
```

- Retrieve the current row values into variables.
- Include the same number of variables.
- Match each variable to correspond to the columns positionally.
- Test to see whether the cursor contains rows.

ORACLE

6-12

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

FETCH Statement

The **FETCH** statement retrieves the rows in the active set one at a time. After each fetch, the cursor advances to the next row in the active set.

In the syntax:

<i>cursor_name</i>	is the name of the previously declared cursor.
<i>variable</i>	is an output variable to store the results.
<i>record_name</i>	is the name of the record in which the retrieved data is stored. (The record variable can be declared using the %ROWTYPE attribute.)

Guidelines:

- Include the same number of variables in the **INTO** clause of the **FETCH** statement as columns in the **SELECT** statement, and be sure that the data types are compatible.
- Match each variable to correspond to the columns positionally.
- Alternatively, define a record for the cursor and reference the record in the **FETCH INTO** clause.
- Test to see whether the cursor contains rows. If a fetch acquires no values, there are no rows left to process in the active set and no error is recorded.

Note: The **FETCH** statement performs the following operations:

1. Reads the data for the current row into the output PL/SQL variables.
2. Advances the pointer to the next row in the identified set.

Fetching Data from the Cursor

Example:

```
LOOP
  FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_empno,v_ename;
  EXIT WHEN ...;
  ...
  -- Process the retrieved data
  ...
END LOOP;
```

ORACLE

6-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

FETCH Statement (continued)

You use the `FETCH` statement to retrieve the current row values into output variables. After the fetch, you can manipulate the data in the variables. For each column value returned by the query associated with the cursor, there must be a corresponding variable in the `INTO` list. Also, their data types must be compatible.

Retrieve the first 10 employees one by one.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
  v_empno employees.employee_id%TYPE;
  v_ename employees.last_name%TYPE;
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM employees;
BEGIN
  OPEN emp_cursor;
  FOR i IN 1..10 LOOP
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_empno, v_ename;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (TO_CHAR(v_empno)
      || ' ' || v_ename);
  END LOOP;
END ;
```

Closing the Cursor

Syntax:

```
CLOSE    cursor_name;
```

- Close the cursor after completing the processing of the rows.
- Reopen the cursor, if required.
- Do not attempt to fetch data from a cursor after it has been closed.

ORACLE

6-14

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

CLOSE Statement

The CLOSE statement disables the cursor, and the active set becomes undefined. Close the cursor after completing the processing of the SELECT statement. This step allows the cursor to be reopened, if required. Therefore, you can establish an active set several times.

In the syntax:

cursor_name is the name of the previously declared cursor.

Do not attempt to fetch data from a cursor after it has been closed, or the INVALID_CURSOR exception will be raised.

Note: The CLOSE statement releases the context area.

Although it is possible to terminate the PL/SQL block without closing cursors, you should make it a habit to close any cursor that you declare explicitly to free up resources.

There is a maximum limit to the number of open cursors per user, which is determined by the OPEN_CURSORS parameter in the database parameter file. OPEN_CURSORS = 50 by default.

```
OPEN emp_cursor
FOR i IN 1..10 LOOP
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_empno, v_ename;
    ...
END LOOP;
CLOSE emp_cursor;
END;
```

Explicit Cursor Attributes

Obtain status information about a cursor.

Attribute	Type	Description
%ISOPEN	Boolean	Evaluates to TRUE if the cursor is open
%NOTFOUND	Boolean	Evaluates to TRUE if the most recent fetch does not return a row
%FOUND	Boolean	Evaluates to TRUE if the most recent fetch returns a row; complement of %NOTFOUND
%ROWCOUNT	Number	Evaluates to the total number of rows returned so far

ORACLE

6-15

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Explicit Cursor Attributes

As with implicit cursors, there are four attributes for obtaining status information about a cursor. When appended to the cursor variable name, these attributes return useful information about the execution of a data manipulation statement.

Note: You cannot reference cursor attributes directly in a SQL statement.

The %ISOPEN Attribute

- Fetch rows only when the cursor is open.
- Use the %ISOPEN cursor attribute before performing a fetch to test whether the cursor is open.

Example:

```
IF NOT emp_cursor%ISOPEN THEN
    OPEN emp_cursor;
END IF;
LOOP
    FETCH emp_cursor...
```

ORACLE

The %ISOPEN Attribute

- You can fetch rows only when the cursor is open. Use the %ISOPEN cursor attribute to determine whether the cursor is open.
- Fetch rows in a loop. Use cursor attributes to determine when to exit the loop.
- Use the %ROWCOUNT cursor attribute for the following:
 - To retrieve an exact number of rows
 - Fetch the rows in a numeric FOR loop
 - Fetch the rows in a simple loop and determine when to exit the loop.

Note: %ISOPEN returns the status of the cursor: TRUE if open and FALSE if not.

Controlling Multiple Fetches

- **Process several rows from an explicit cursor using a loop.**
- **Fetch a row with each iteration.**
- **Use explicit cursor attributes to test the success of each fetch.**

ORACLE

6-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Controlling Multiple Fetches from Explicit Cursors

To process several rows from an explicit cursor, you typically define a loop to perform a fetch on each iteration. Eventually all rows in the active set are processed, and an unsuccessful fetch sets the `%NOTFOUND` attribute to `TRUE`. Use the explicit cursor attributes to test the success of each fetch before any further references are made to the cursor. If you omit an exit criterion, an infinite loop results.

For more information, see *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Interaction With Oracle."

The %NOTFOUND and %ROWCOUNT Attributes

- Use the %ROWCOUNT cursor attribute to retrieve an exact number of rows.
- Use the %NOTFOUND cursor attribute to determine when to exit the loop.

ORACLE

6-18

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The %NOTFOUND and %ROWCOUNT Attributes

%NOTFOUND

%NOTFOUND is the logical opposite of %FOUND. %NOTFOUND yields FALSE if the last fetch returned a row, or TRUE if the last fetch failed to return a row. In the following example, you use %NOTFOUND to exit a loop when FETCH fails to return a row:

```
LOOP
    FETCH c1 INTO my_ename, my_sal, my_hiredate;
    EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND;
    ...
END LOOP;
```

Before the first fetch, %NOTFOUND evaluates to NULL. So, if FETCH never executes successfully, the loop is never exited. That is because the EXIT WHEN statement executes only if its WHEN condition is true. To be safe, use the following EXIT statement instead:

```
EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND OR c1%NOTFOUND IS NULL;
```

If a cursor is not open, referencing it with %NOTFOUND raises INVALID_CURSOR.

The %NOTFOUND and %ROWCOUNT Attributes (continued)

%ROWCOUNT

When its cursor or cursor variable is opened, %ROWCOUNT is zeroed. Before the first fetch, %ROWCOUNT yields 0. Thereafter, it yields the number of rows fetched so far. The number is incremented if the last fetch returned a row. In the next example, you use %ROWCOUNT to take action if more than ten rows have been fetched:

```
LOOP
    FETCH c1 INTO my_ename, my_deptno;
    IF c1%ROWCOUNT > 10 THEN
        ...
    END IF;
    ...
END LOOP;
```

If a cursor is not open, referencing it with %ROWCOUNT raises INVALID_CURSOR.

Example

```
DECLARE
    v_empno employees.employee_id%TYPE;
    v_ename employees.last_name%TYPE;
    CURSOR emp_cursor IS
        SELECT employee_id, last_name
        FROM employees;
BEGIN
    OPEN emp_cursor;
    LOOP
        FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_empno, v_ename;
        EXIT WHEN emp_cursor%ROWCOUNT > 10 OR
                    emp_cursor%NOTFOUND;
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (TO_CHAR(v_empno)
                               || ' ' || v_ename);
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE emp_cursor;
END ;
```

ORACLE

Example

The example on the slide retrieves the first ten employees one by one.

Note: Before the first fetch, %NOTFOUND evaluates to NULL. So if FETCH never executes successfully, the loop is never exited. That is because the EXIT WHEN statement executes only if its WHEN condition is true. To be safe, use the following EXIT statement:

```
EXIT WHEN emp_cursor%NOTFOUND OR emp_cursor%NOTFOUND IS NULL;
```

If using %ROWCOUNT, add a test for no rows in the cursor by using the %NOTFOUND attribute, because the row count is not incremented if the fetch does not retrieve any rows.

Cursors and Records

Process the rows of the active set by fetching values into a PL/SQL RECORD.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM   employees;
  emp_record emp_cursor%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
  OPEN emp_cursor;
  LOOP
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO emp_record;
    ...
```

emp_record	
employee_id	last_name

100	King
-----	------

ORACLE

6-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursors and Records

You have already seen that you can define records that have the structure of columns in a table. You can also define a record based on the selected list of columns in an explicit cursor. This is convenient for processing the rows of the active set, because you can simply fetch into the record. Therefore, the values of the row are loaded directly into the corresponding fields of the record.

Example

Use a cursor to retrieve employee numbers and names and populate a database table, TEMP_LIST, with this information.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM   employees;
  emp_record emp_cursor%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
  OPEN emp_cursor;
  LOOP
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO emp_record;
    EXIT WHEN emp_cursor%NOTFOUND;
    INSERT INTO temp_list (empid, empname)
    VALUES (emp_record.employee_id, emp_record.last_name);
  END LOOP;
  COMMIT;
  CLOSE emp_cursor;
END;
/
```

Cursor FOR Loops

Syntax:

```
FOR record_name IN cursor_name LOOP
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .
END LOOP;
```

- The cursor FOR loop is a shortcut to process explicit cursors.
- Implicit open, fetch, exit, and close occur.
- The record is implicitly declared.

ORACLE

6-22

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursor FOR Loops

A cursor FOR loop processes rows in an explicit cursor. It is a shortcut because the cursor is opened, rows are fetched once for each iteration in the loop, the loop exits when the last row is processed, and the cursor is closed automatically. The loop itself is terminated automatically at the end of the iteration where the last row is fetched.

In the syntax:

record_name is the name of the implicitly declared record.

cursor_name is a PL/SQL identifier for the previously declared cursor.

Guidelines

- Do not declare the record that controls the loop because it is declared implicitly.
- Test the cursor attributes during the loop, if required.
- Supply the parameters for a cursor, if required, in parentheses following the cursor name in the FOR statement. More information on cursor parameters is covered in a subsequent lesson.
- Do not use a cursor FOR loop when the cursor operations must be handled explicitly.

Note: You can define a query at the start of the loop itself. The query expression is called a SELECT substatement, and the cursor is internal to the FOR loop. Because the cursor is not declared with a name, you cannot test its attributes.

Cursor FOR Loops

Print a list of the employees who work for the sales department.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT last_name, department_id
    FROM   employees;
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN emp_cursor LOOP
    -- implicit open and implicit fetch occur
    IF emp_record.department_id = 80 THEN
      ...
    END LOOP; -- implicit close occurs
END;
/
```

ORACLE

6-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Example

Retrieve employees one by one and print out a list of those employees currently working in the sales department (DEPARTMENT_ID = 80). The example from the slide is completed below.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT last_name, department_id
    FROM   employees;
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN emp_cursor LOOP
    --implicit open and implicit fetch occur
    IF emp_record.department_id = 80 THEN
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Employee ' || emp_record.last_name
                           || ' works in the Sales Dept. ');
    END IF;
  END LOOP;  --implicit close and implicit loop exit
END ;
/
```

Cursor FOR Loops Using Subqueries

No need to declare the cursor.

Example:

```
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN (SELECT last_name, department_id
                      FROM   employees) LOOP
    -- implicit open and implicit fetch occur
    IF emp_record.department_id = 80 THEN
      ...
    END LOOP; -- implicit close occurs
END;
```

ORACLE

6-24

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursor FOR Loops Using Subqueries

When you use a subquery in a FOR loop, you do not need to declare a cursor. This example does the same thing as the one on the previous page. The complete code is given below:

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN (SELECT last_name, department_id
                      FROM   employees) LOOP
    --implicit open and implicit fetch occur
    IF emp_record.department_id = 80 THEN
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Employee ' || emp_record.last_name
                            || ' works in the Sales Dept. ');
    END IF;
  END LOOP;  --implicit close occurs
END ;
/
```

Example

Retrieve the first five employees with a job history.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    v_employee_id    employees.employee_id%TYPE;
    v_job_id         employees.job_id%TYPE;
    v_start_date     DATE;
    v_end_date       DATE;
    CURSOR emp_cursor IS
        SELECT          employee_id, job_id, start_date, end_date
        FROM    job_history
        ORDER BY    employee_id;
BEGIN
    OPEN emp_cursor;
    LOOP
        FETCH emp_cursor
            INTO v_employee_id, v_job_id, v_start_date, v_end_date;
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Employee #: ' || v_employee_id ||
            ' held the job of ' || v_job_id || ' FROM ' ||
            v_start_date || ' TO ' || v_end_date);
        EXIT WHEN emp_cursor%ROWCOUNT > 4 OR
            emp_cursor%NOTFOUND;
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE emp_cursor;
END;
/
```

Summary

In this lesson you should have learned how to:

- **Distinguish cursor types:**
 - **Implicit cursors:** used for all **DML** statements and **single-row queries**
 - **Explicit cursors:** used for queries of **zero, one, or more rows**
- **Manipulate explicit cursors**
- **Evaluate the cursor status by using cursor attributes**
- **Use cursor **FOR** loops**

ORACLE

6-26

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

Oracle uses work areas to execute SQL statements and store processing information. A PL/SQL construct called a cursor allows you to name a work area and access its stored information. There are two kinds of cursors: implicit and explicit. PL/SQL implicitly declares a cursor for all SQL data manipulation statements, including queries that return only one row. For queries that return more than one row, you can explicitly declare a cursor to process the rows individually.

Every explicit cursor and cursor variable has four attributes: `%FOUND`, `%ISOPEN`, `%NOTFOUND`, and `%ROWCOUNT`. When appended to the cursor or cursor variable, these attributes return useful information about the execution of a data manipulation statement. You can use cursor attributes in procedural statements but not in SQL statements.

Practice 6 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Declaring and using explicit cursors to query rows of a table**
- **Using a cursor `FOR` loop**
- **Applying cursor attributes to test the cursor status**

ORACLE

6-27

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 6 Overview

This practice applies your knowledge of cursors to process a number of rows from a table and populate another table with the results using a cursor `FOR` loop.

Practice 6

1. Run the command in the script lab06_1.sql to create a new table for storing the salaries of the employees.

```
CREATE TABLE      top_dogs
( salary           NUMBER( 8, 2 ) );
```

2. Create a PL/SQL block that determines the top employees with respect to salaries.
 - a. Accept a number n from the user where n represents the number of top n earners from the EMPLOYEES table. For example, to view the top five earners, enter 5.
Note: Use the DEFINE command to provide the value for n . Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable.
 - b. In a loop use the *iSQL*Plus* substitution parameter created in step 1 and gather the salaries of the top n people from the EMPLOYEES table. There should be no duplication in the salaries. If two employees earn the same salary, the salary should be picked up only once.
 - c. Store the salaries in the TOP_DOGS table.
 - d. Test a variety of special cases, such as $n = 0$ or where n is greater than the number of employees in the EMPLOYEES table. Empty the TOP_DOGS table after each test. The output shown represents the five highest salaries in the EMPLOYEES table.

SALARY	
	24000
	17000
	14000
	13500
	13000


3. Create a PL/SQL block that does the following:
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the department ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable.
 - b. In a PL/SQL block, retrieve the last name, salary, and MANAGER ID of the employees working in that department.
 - c. If the salary of the employee is less than 5000 and if the manager ID is either 101 or 124, display the message <<last_name>> Due for a raise. Otherwise, display the message <<last_name>> Not due for a raise.

Note: SET ECHO OFF to avoid displaying the PL/SQL code every time you execute the script.

Practice 6 (continued)

d. Test the PL/SQL block for the following cases:

Department ID	Message
10	Whalen Due for a raise
20	Hartstein Not Due for a raise Fay Not Due for a raise
50	Weiss Not Due for a raise Fripp Due for a raise Kaufling Due for a raise Vollman Due for a raise Mourgas Due for a raise
80	Russel Not Due for a raise Partners Not Due for a raise Errazuriz Not Due for a raise Cambrault Not Due for a raise



Advanced Explicit Cursor Concepts

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Write a cursor that uses parameters**
- **Determine when a `FOR UPDATE` clause in a cursor is required**
- **Determine when to use the `WHERE CURRENT OF` clause**
- **Write a cursor that uses a subquery**

ORACLE

7-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn more about writing explicit cursors, specifically about writing cursors that use parameters.

Cursors with Parameters

Syntax:

```
CURSOR cursor_name
  [(parameter_name datatype, ...)]
IS
  select_statement;
```

- Pass parameter values to a cursor when the cursor is opened and the query is executed.
- Open an explicit cursor several times with a different active set each time.

```
OPEN cursor_name(parameter_value,.....) ;
```

ORACLE

7-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursors with Parameters

You can pass parameters to the cursor in a cursor FOR loop. This means that you can open and close an explicit cursor several times in a block, returning a different active set on each occasion. For each execution, the previous cursor is closed and re-opened with a new set of parameters.

Each formal parameter in the cursor declaration must have a corresponding actual parameter in the OPEN statement. Parameter data types are the same as those for scalar variables, but you do not give them sizes. The parameter names are for references in the query expression of the cursor.

In the syntax:

<i>cursor_name</i>	is a PL/SQL identifier for the previously declared cursor.
<i>parameter_name</i>	is the name of a parameter.

parameter_name

<i>datatype</i>	is a scalar data type of the parameter.
<i>select_statement</i>	is a SELECT statement without the INTO clause.

When the cursor is opened, you pass values to each of the parameters by position or by name. You can pass values from PL/SQL or host variables as well as from literals.

Note: The parameter notation does not offer greater functionality; it simply allows you to specify input values easily and clearly. This is particularly useful when the same cursor is referenced repeatedly.

Cursors with Parameters

Pass the department number and job title to the WHERE clause, in the cursor SELECT statement.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor
    (p_deptno NUMBER, p_job VARCHAR2) IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name
    FROM   employees
    WHERE  department_id = p_deptno
    AND    job_id = p_job;
BEGIN
  OPEN emp_cursor (80, 'SA_REP');
  . . .
  CLOSE emp_cursor;
  OPEN emp_cursor (60, 'IT_PROG');
  . . .
END;
```

ORACLE

7-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursors with Parameter

Parameter data types are the same as those for scalar variables, but you do not give them sizes. The parameter names are for references in the cursor's query. In the following example, a cursor is declared and is defined with two parameters.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor(p_deptno NUMBER, p_job VARCHAR2) IS
  SELECT ...
```

The following statements open the cursor and returns different active sets:

```
OPEN emp_cursor(60, v_emp_job);
OPEN emp_cursor(90, 'AD_VP');
```

You can pass parameters to the cursor used in a cursor FOR loop:

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor(p_deptno NUMBER, p_job VARCHAR2) IS
  SELECT ...
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN emp_cursor(50, 'ST_CLERK') LOOP ...
```


The FOR UPDATE Clause

Syntax:

```
SELECT ...  
FROM      ...  
FOR UPDATE [OF column_reference][NOWAIT];
```

- Use explicit locking to deny access for the duration of a transaction.
- Lock the rows *before* the update or delete.

ORACLE

7-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The FOR UPDATE Clause

You may want to lock rows before you update or delete rows. Add the FOR UPDATE clause in the cursor query to lock the affected rows when the cursor is opened. Because the Oracle Server releases locks at the end of the transaction, you should not commit across fetches from an explicit cursor if FOR UPDATE is used.

In the syntax:

column_reference is a column in the table against which the query is performed. (A list of columns may also be used.)

NOWAIT returns an Oracle error if the rows are locked by another session

The FOR UPDATE clause is the last clause in a select statement, even after the ORDER BY, if one exists. When querying multiple tables, you can use the FOR UPDATE clause to confine row locking to particular tables. Rows in a table are locked only if the FOR UPDATE clause refers to a column in that table. FOR UPDATE OF col_name(s) locks rows only in tables that contain the col_name(s).

The SELECT ... FOR UPDATE statement identifies the rows that will be updated or deleted, then locks each row in the result set. This is useful when you want to base an update on the existing values in a row. In that case, you must make sure the row is not changed by another user before the update.

The optional NOWAIT keyword tells Oracle not to wait if requested rows have been locked by another user. Control is immediately returned to your program so that it can do other work before trying again to acquire the lock. If you omit the NOWAIT keyword, Oracle waits until the rows are available.

The FOR UPDATE Clause

Retrieve the employees who work in department 80 and update their salary.

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, last_name, department_name
    FROM   employees, departments
    WHERE  employees.department_id =
           departments.department_id
    AND    employees.department_id = 80
    FOR UPDATE OF salary NOWAIT;
```

ORACLE

7-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The FOR UPDATE Clause (continued)

Note: If the Oracle server cannot acquire the locks on the rows it needs in a `SELECT FOR UPDATE`, it waits indefinitely. You can use the `NOWAIT` clause in the `SELECT FOR UPDATE` statement and test for the error code that returns because of failure to acquire the locks in a loop. You can retry opening the cursor *n* times before terminating the PL/SQL block. If you have a large table, you can achieve better performance by using the `LOCK TABLE` statement to lock all rows in the table. However, when using `LOCK TABLE`, you cannot use the `WHERE CURRENT OF` clause and must use the notation `WHERE column = identifier`.

It is not mandatory that the `FOR UPDATE OF` clause refer to a column, but it is recommended for better readability and maintenance.

Note: The `WHERE CURRENT OF` clause is explained later in this lesson.

The `FOR UPDATE` clause identifies the rows that will be updated or deleted, then locks each row in the result set. This is useful when you want to base an update on the existing values in a row. In that case, you must make sure the row is not changed by another user before the update.

The WHERE CURRENT OF Clause

Syntax:

```
WHERE CURRENT OF cursor ;
```

- Use cursors to update or delete the current row.
- Include the FOR UPDATE clause in the cursor query to lock the rows first.
- Use the WHERE CURRENT OF clause to reference the current row from an explicit cursor.

ORACLE

7-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The WHERE CURRENT OF Clause

When referencing the current row from an explicit cursor, use the WHERE CURRENT OF clause. This allows you to apply updates and deletes to the row currently being addressed, without the need to explicitly reference the ROWID. You must include the FOR UPDATE clause in the cursor query so that the rows are locked on OPEN.

In the syntax:

cursor

is the name of a declared cursor. (The cursor must have been declared with the FOR UPDATE clause.)

The WHERE CURRENT OF Clause

```
DECLARE
CURSOR sal_cursor IS
  SELECT e.department_id, employee_id, last_name, salary
  FROM   employees e, departments d
  WHERE  d.department_id = e.department_id
        and d.department_id = 60
  FOR UPDATE OF salary NOWAIT;
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN sal_cursor
  LOOP
    IF emp_record.salary < 5000 THEN
      UPDATE employees
      SET    salary = emp_record.salary * 1.10
      WHERE CURRENT OF sal_cursor;
    END IF;
  END LOOP;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

7-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The WHERE CURRENT OF Clause (continued)

Example

The slide example loops through each employee in department 60, and checks whether the salary is less than 5000. If the salary is less than 5000, the salary is raised by 10%. The WHERE CURRENT OF clause in the UPDATE statement refers to the currently fetched record. Observe that a table can be updated with the WHERE CURRENT OF clause, even if there is a join in the cursor declaration.

Additionally, you can write a DELETE or UPDATE statement to contain the WHERE CURRENT OF *cursor_name* clause to refer to the latest row processed by the FETCH statement. You can update rows based on criteria from a cursor. When you use this clause, the cursor you reference must exist and must contain the FOR UPDATE clause in the cursor query; otherwise, you will receive an error. This clause allows you to apply updates and deletes to the currently addressed row without the need to explicitly reference the ROWID pseudo column.

Cursors with Subqueries

Example:

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR my_cursor IS
    SELECT t1.department_id, t1.department_name,
           t2.staff
    FROM   departments t1, (SELECT department_id,
                                   COUNT(*) AS STAFF
                           FROM employees
                           GROUP BY department_id) t2
    WHERE t1.department_id = t2.department_id
    AND   t2.staff >= 3;
  ...
```

ORACLE

Cursors with Subqueries

A subquery is a query (usually enclosed by parentheses) that appears within another SQL data manipulation statement. When evaluated, the subquery provides a value or set of values to the outer query. Subqueries are often used in the `WHERE` clause of a select statement. They can also be used in the `FROM` clause, creating a temporary data source for that query.

In this example, the subquery creates a data source consisting of department numbers and employee head count in each department (known as the alias `STAFF`). A table alias, `t2`, refers to this temporary data source in the `FROM` clause. When this cursor is opened, the active set will contain the department number, department name, and total number of employees working for the department, provided there are three or more employees working for the department.

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- **Return different active sets using cursors with parameters.**
- **Define cursors with subqueries and correlated subqueries.**
- **Manipulate explicit cursors with commands using the:**
 - **FOR UPDATE clause**
 - **WHERE CURRENT OF clause**

ORACLE

7-10

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

An explicit cursor can take parameters. In a query, you can specify a cursor parameter wherever a constant appears. An advantage of using parameters is that you can decide the active set at run time.

PL/SQL provides a method to modify the rows that have been retrieved by the cursor. The method consists of two parts. The **FOR UPDATE** clause in the cursor declaration and the **WHERE CURRENT OF** clause in an **UPDATE** or **DELETE** statement.

Practice 7 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Declaring and using explicit cursors with parameters**
- **Using a `FOR UPDATE` cursor**

ORACLE

7-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 7 Overview

This practice applies your knowledge of cursors with parameters to process a number of rows from multiple tables.

Practice 7

1. In a loop, use a cursor to retrieve the department number and the department name from the DEPARTMENTS table for those departments whose DEPARTMENT_ID is less than 100. Pass the department number to another cursor to retrieve from the EMPLOYEES table the details of employee last name, job, hire date, and salary of those employees whose EMPLOYEE_ID is less than 120 and who work in that department.

Department Number : 10 Department Name : Administration

Department Number : 20 Department Name : Marketing

Department Number : 30 Department Name : Purchasing

Raphaely PU_MAN 07-DEC-94 11000
Khoo PU_CLERK 18-MAY-95 3100
Baida PU_CLERK 24-DEC-97 2900
Tobias PU_CLERK 24-JUL-97 2800
Himuro PU_CLERK 15-NOV-98 2600
Colmenares PU_CLERK 10-AUG-99 2500

Department Number : 40 Department Name : Human Resources

Department Number : 50 Department Name : Shipping

Department Number : 60 Department Name : IT

Hunold IT_PROG 03-JAN-90 9000
Ernst IT_PROG 21-MAY-91 6000
Austin IT_PROG 25-JUN-97 5280
Pataballa IT_PROG 05-FEB-98 5280
Lorentz IT_PROG 07-FEB-99 4620

Department Number : 70 Department Name : Public Relations

Department Number : 80 Department Name : Sales

Department Number : 90 Department Name : Executive

King AD_PRES 17-JUN-87 24000
Kochhar AD_VP 21-SEP-89 17000
De Haan AD_VP 13-JAN-93 17000

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

Practice 7 (continued)

2. Modify the code in `sol04_4.sql` to incorporate a cursor using the `FOR UPDATE` and `WHERE CURRENT OF` functionality in cursor processing.

- a. Define the host variables.

```
DEFINE p_empno=104
```

```
DEFINE p_empno=174
```

```
DEFINE p_empno=176
```

- b. Execute the modified PL/SQL block

- c. Execute the following command to check if your PL/SQL block has worked successfully:

```
SELECT employee_id,salary,stars
FROM EMP
WHERE employee_id IN (176,174,104);
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	SALARY	STARS
104	6000	*****
174	11000	*****
176	8600	*****

8

Handling Exceptions

ORACLE

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Define PL/SQL exceptions**
- **Recognize unhandled exceptions**
- **List and use different types of PL/SQL exception handlers**
- **Trap unanticipated errors**
- **Describe the effect of exception propagation in nested blocks**
- **Customize PL/SQL exception messages**

ORACLE

8-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Lesson Aim

In this lesson, you learn what PL/SQL exceptions are and how to deal with them using predefined, nonpredefined, and user-defined exception handlers.

Handling Exceptions with PL/SQL

- **An exception is an identifier in PL/SQL that is raised during execution.**
- **How is it raised?**
 - An Oracle error occurs.
 - You raise it explicitly.
- **How do you handle it?**
 - Trap it with a handler.
 - Propagate it to the calling environment.

ORACLE

8-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

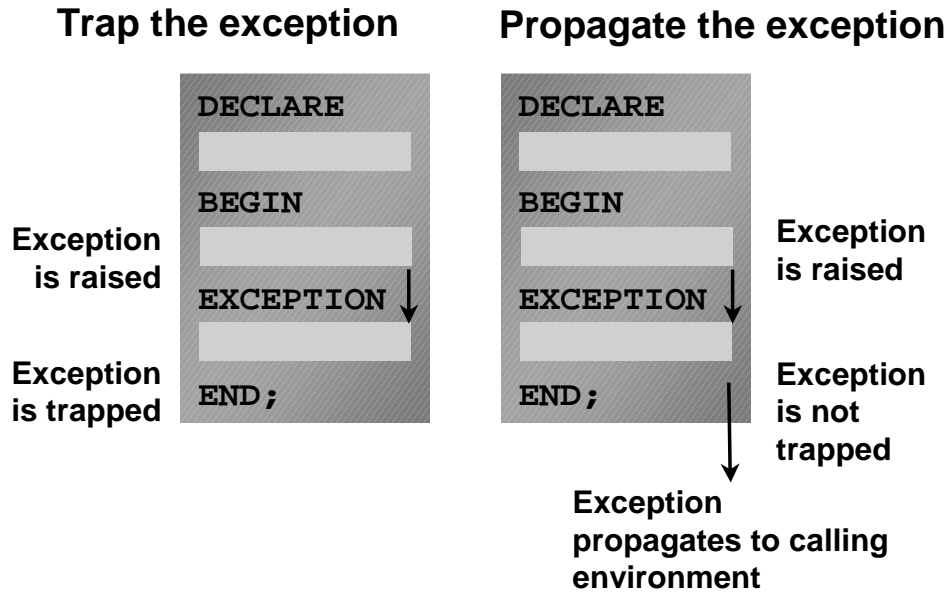
Overview

An exception is an identifier in PL/SQL that is raised during the execution of a block that terminates its main body of actions. A block always terminates when PL/SQL raises an exception, but can you specify an exception handler to perform final actions.

Two Methods for Raising an Exception

- An Oracle error occurs and the associated exception is raised automatically. For example, if the error ORA-01403 occurs when no rows are retrieved from the database in a SELECT statement, then PL/SQL raises the exception NO_DATA_FOUND.
- You raise an exception explicitly by issuing the RAISE statement within the block. The exception being raised may be either user-defined or predefined.

Handling Exceptions



ORACLE

Trapping an Exception

If the exception is raised in the executable section of the block, processing branches to the corresponding exception handler in the exception section of the block. If PL/SQL successfully handles the exception, then the exception does not propagate to the enclosing block or environment. The PL/SQL block terminates successfully.

Propagating an Exception

If the exception is raised in the executable section of the block and there is no corresponding exception handler, the PL/SQL block terminates with failure and the exception is propagated to the calling environment.

Exception Types

- **Predefined Oracle Server**
 - **Nonpredefined Oracle Server**
- } **Implicitly raised**
- **User-defined** **Explicitly raised**

ORACLE

8-5

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Exception Types

You can program for exceptions to avoid disruption at run time. There are three types of exceptions.

Exception	Description	Directions for Handling
Predefined Oracle Server error	One of approximately 20 errors that occur most often in PL/SQL code	Do not declare and allow the Oracle server to raise them implicitly
Nonpredefined Oracle Server error	Any other standard Oracle Server error	Declare within the declarative section and allow the Oracle Server to raise them implicitly
User-defined error	A condition that the developer determines is abnormal	Declare within the declarative section, <i>and</i> raise explicitly

Note: Some application tools with client-side PL/SQL, such as Oracle Developer Forms, have their own exceptions.

Trapping Exceptions

Syntax:

```
EXCEPTION
  WHEN exception1 [OR exception2 . . .] THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .
  [WHEN exception3 [OR exception4 . . .] THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .]
  [WHEN OTHERS THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .]
```

ORACLE

8-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping Exceptions

You can trap any error by including a corresponding routine within the exception handling section of the PL/SQL block. Each handler consists of a WHEN clause, which specifies an exception, followed by a sequence of statements to be executed when that exception is raised.

In the syntax:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>exception</i> | is the standard name of a predefined exception or the name of a user-defined exception declared within the declarative section. |
| <i>statement</i> | is one or more PL/SQL or SQL statements. |
| OTHERS | is an optional exception-handling clause that traps unspecified exceptions. |

WHEN OTHERS Exception Handler

The exception-handling section traps only those exceptions that are specified; any other exceptions are not trapped unless you use the OTHERS exception handler. This traps any exception not yet handled. For this reason, OTHERS is the last exception handler that is defined.

The OTHERS handler traps *all* exceptions not already trapped. Some Oracle tools have their own predefined exceptions that you can raise to cause events in the application. The OTHERS handler also traps these exceptions.

Trapping Exceptions Guidelines

- The **EXCEPTION** keyword starts exception-handling section.
- Several exception handlers are allowed.
- Only one handler is processed before leaving the block.
- **WHEN OTHERS** is the last clause.

ORACLE

8-7

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Guidelines

- Begin the exception-handling section of the block with the **EXCEPTION** keyword.
- Define several exception handlers, each with its own set of actions, for the block.
- When an exception occurs, PL/SQL processes *only one* handler before leaving the block.
- Place the **OTHERS** clause after all other exception-handling clauses.
- You can have only one **OTHERS** clause.
- Exceptions cannot appear in assignment statements or SQL statements.

Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Errors

- Reference the standard name in the exception-handling routine.
- Sample predefined exceptions:
 - NO_DATA_FOUND
 - TOO_MANY_ROWS
 - INVALID_CURSOR
 - ZERO_DIVIDE
 - DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX

ORACLE

8-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Errors

Trap a predefined Oracle Server error by referencing its standard name within the corresponding exception-handling routine.

For a complete list of predefined exceptions, see *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*, "Error Handling."

Note: PL/SQL declares predefined exceptions in the STANDARD package.

It is a good idea to always handle the NO_DATA_FOUND and TOO_MANY_ROWS exceptions, which are the most common.

Predefined Exceptions

Exception Name	Oracle Server Error Number	Description
ACCESS_INTO_NULL	ORA-06530	Attempted to assign values to the attributes of an uninitialized object
CASE_NOT_FOUND	ORA-06592	None of the choices in the WHEN clauses of a CASE statement is selected, and there is no ELSE clause.
COLLECTION_IS_NULL	ORA-06531	Attempted to apply collection methods other than EXISTS to an uninitialized nested table or varray
CURSOR_ALREADY_OPEN	ORA-06511	Attempted to open an already open cursor
DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX	ORA-00001	Attempted to insert a duplicate value
INVALID_CURSOR	ORA-01001	Illegal cursor operation occurred
INVALID_NUMBER	ORA-01722	Conversion of character string to number fails
LOGIN_DENIED	ORA-01017	Logging on to Oracle with an invalid username or password
NO_DATA_FOUND	ORA-01403	Single row SELECT returned no data
NOT_LOGGED_ON	ORA-01012	PL/SQL program issues a database call without being connected to Oracle
PROGRAM_ERROR	ORA-06501	PL/SQL has an internal problem
ROWTYPE_MISMATCH	ORA-06504	Host cursor variable and PL/SQL cursor variable involved in an assignment have incompatible return types

Predefined Exceptions (continued)

Exception Name	Oracle Server Error Number	Description
STORAGE_ERROR	ORA-06500	PL/SQL ran out of memory or memory is corrupted.
SUBSCRIPT_BEYOND_COUNT	ORA-06533	Referenced a nested table or varray element using an index number larger than the number of elements in the collection.
SUBSCRIPT_OUTSIDE_LIMIT	ORA-06532	Referenced a nested table or varray element using an index number that is outside the legal range (–1 for example)
SYS_INVALID_ROWID	ORA-01410	The conversion of a character string into a universal ROWID fails because the character string does not represent a valid ROWID.
TIMEOUT_ON_RESOURCE	ORA-00051	Time-out occurred while Oracle is waiting for a resource.
TOO_MANY_ROWS	ORA-01422	Single-row SELECT returned more than one row.
VALUE_ERROR	ORA-06502	Arithmetic, conversion, truncation, or size-constraint error occurred.
ZERO_DIVIDE	ORA-01476	Attempted to divide by zero

Predefined Exceptions

Syntax:

```
BEGIN
. . .
EXCEPTION
  WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;

  WHEN TOO_MANY_ROWS THEN
    statement1;

  WHEN OTHERS THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    statement3;

END;
```

ORACLE

8-11

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Exceptions

When an exception is raised, normal execution of your PL/SQL block or subprogram stops and control transfers to its exception-handling part, which is formatted as shown on the slide.

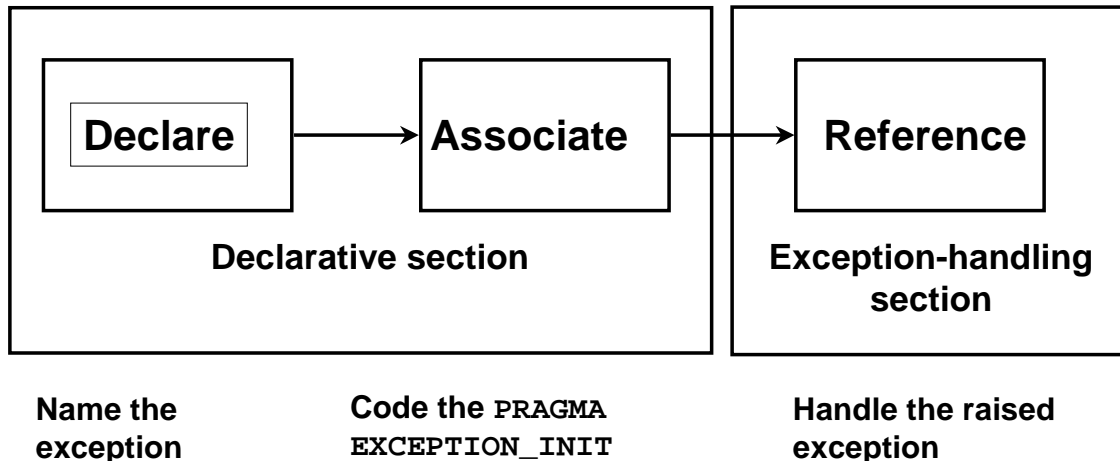
To catch raised exceptions, you write exception handlers. Each handler consists of a WHEN clause, which specifies an exception, followed by a sequence of statements to be executed when that exception is raised. These statements complete execution of the block or subprogram; control does not return to where the exception was raised. In other words, you cannot resume processing where you left off.

The optional OTHERS exception handler, which, if present, is always the last handler in a block or subprogram, acts as the handler for all exceptions that are not named specifically. Thus, a block or subprogram can have only one OTHERS handler. As the following example shows, use of the OTHERS handler guarantees that no exception will go unhandled:

```
EXCEPTION
  WHEN ... THEN
    -- handle the error
  WHEN ... THEN
    -- handle the error
  WHEN OTHERS THEN
    -- handle all other errors

END;
```

Trapping Nonpredefined Oracle Server Errors



ORACLE

8-12

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping Nonpredefined Oracle Server Errors

You trap a nonpredefined Oracle server error by declaring it first, or by using the `OTHERS` handler. The declared exception is raised implicitly. In PL/SQL, the `PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT` tells the compiler to associate an exception name with an Oracle error number. That allows you to refer to any internal exception by name and to write a specific handler for it.

Note: `PRAGMA` (also called *pseudoinstructions*) is the keyword that signifies that the statement is a compiler directive, which is not processed when the PL/SQL block is executed. Rather, it directs the PL/SQL compiler to interpret all occurrences of the exception name within the block as the associated Oracle server error number.

Nonpredefined Error

Trap for Oracle server error number –2292, an integrity constraint violation.

```
DEFINE p_deptno = 10
DECLARE
    e_emps_remaining EXCEPTION;
    PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT
        (e_emps_remaining, -2292);
BEGIN
    DELETE FROM departments
    WHERE department_id = &p_deptno;
    COMMIT;
EXCEPTION
    WHEN e_emps_remaining THEN
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Cannot remove dept ' ||
            TO_CHAR(&p_deptno) || '. Employees exist. ');
END;
```

1

2

3

ORACLE

8-13

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping a Nonpredefined Oracle Server Exception

1. Declare the name for the exception within the declarative section.

Syntax

```
exception EXCEPTION;
```

where: *exception* is the name of the exception.

2. Associate the declared exception with the standard Oracle server error number using the PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT statement.

Syntax

```
PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT(exception, error_number);
```

where: *exception* is the previously declared exception.

error_number is a standard Oracle Server error number.

3. Reference the declared exception within the corresponding exception-handling routine.

Example

If there are employees in a department, print a message to the user that the department cannot be removed.

Functions for Trapping Exceptions

- **SQLCODE:** Returns the numeric value for the error code
- **SQLERRM:** Returns the message associated with the error number

ORACLE

8-14

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Error-Trapping Functions

When an exception occurs, you can identify the associated error code or error message by using two functions. Based on the values of the code or message, you can decide which subsequent action to take based on the error.

SQLCODE returns the number of the Oracle error for internal exceptions. You can pass an error number to SQLERRM, which then returns the message associated with the error number.

Function	Description
SQLCODE	Returns the numeric value for the error code (You can assign it to a NUMBER variable.)
SQLERRM	Returns character data containing the message associated with the error number

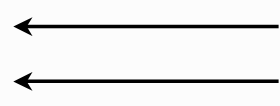
Example SQLCODE Values

SQLCODE Value	Description
0	No exception encountered
1	User-defined exception
+100	NO_DATA_FOUND exception
<i>negative number</i>	Another Oracle server error number

Functions for Trapping Exceptions

Example:

```
DECLARE
    v_error_code      NUMBER;
    v_error_message   VARCHAR2(255);
BEGIN
    ...
EXCEPTION
    ...
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
        ROLLBACK;
        v_error_code := SQLCODE;
        v_error_message := SQLERRM;
        INSERT INTO errors
            VALUES(v_error_code, v_error_message);
END;
```



ORACLE

8-15

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

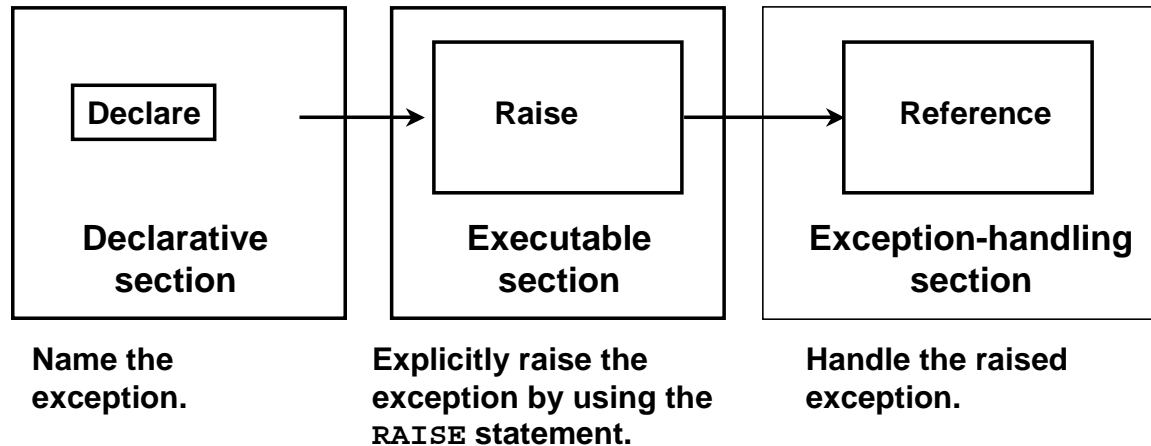
Error-Trapping Functions (continued)

When an exception is trapped in the WHEN OTHERS exception handler, you can use a set of generic functions to identify those errors. The example on the slide illustrates the values of SQLCODE and SQLERRM being assigned to variables and then those variables being used in a SQL statement.

You cannot use SQLCODE or SQLERRM directly in a SQL statement. Instead, you must assign their values to local variables, then use the variables in the SQL statement, as shown in the following example:

```
DECLARE
    err_num NUMBER;
    err_msg VARCHAR2(100);
BEGIN
    ...
EXCEPTION
    ...
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
        err_num := SQLCODE;
        err_msg := SUBSTR(SQLERRM, 1, 100);
        INSERT INTO errors VALUES (err_num, err_msg);
END;
```

Trapping User-Defined Exceptions



ORACLE

8-16

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping User-Defined Exceptions

PL/SQL allows you to define your own exceptions. User-defined PL/SQL exceptions must be:

- Declared in the declare section of a PL/SQL block
- Raised explicitly with RAISE statements

User-Defined Exceptions

Example:

```
DEFINE p_department_desc = 'Information Technology '  
DEFINE P_department_number = 300
```

```
DECLARE  
    e_invalid_department EXCEPTION;  
BEGIN  
    UPDATE      departments  
    SET          department_name = '&p_department_desc'  
    WHERE        department_id = &p_department_number;  
    IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN  
        RAISE e_invalid_department;  
    END IF;  
    COMMIT;  
EXCEPTION  
    WHEN e_invalid_department THEN  
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('No such department id.');
```

1

2

3

ORACLE

8-17

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Trapping User-Defined Exceptions (continued)

You trap a user-defined exception by declaring it and raising it explicitly.

1. Declare the name for the user-defined exception within the declarative section.

Syntax:

```
exception EXCEPTION;
```

where: *exception* is the name of the exception

2. Use the RAISE statement to raise the exception explicitly within the executable section.

Syntax:

```
RAISE exception;
```

where: *exception* is the previously declared exception

3. Reference the declared exception within the corresponding exception-handling routine.

Example

This block updates the description of a department. The user supplies the department number and the new name. If the user enters a department number that does not exist, no rows will be updated in the DEPARTMENTS table. Raise an exception and print a message for the user that an invalid department number was entered.

Note: Use the RAISE statement by itself within an exception handler to raise the same exception back to the calling environment.

Calling Environments

iSQL*Plus	Displays error number and message to screen
Procedure Builder	Displays error number and message to screen
Oracle Developer Forms	Accesses error number and message in a trigger by means of the <code>ERROR_CODE</code> and <code>ERROR_TEXT</code> packaged functions
Precompiler application	Accesses exception number through the <code>SQLCA</code> data structure
An enclosing PL/SQL block	Traps exception in exception-handling routine of enclosing block

ORACLE

Propagating Exceptions

Instead of trapping an exception within the PL/SQL block, propagate the exception to allow the calling environment to handle it. Each calling environment has its own way of displaying and accessing errors.

Propagating Exceptions

Subblocks can handle an exception or pass the exception to the enclosing block.

```
DECLARE
    . . .
    e_no_rows      exception;
    e_integrity    exception;
    PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT (e_integrity, -2292);
BEGIN
    FOR c_record IN emp_cursor LOOP
        BEGIN
            SELECT ...
            UPDATE ...
            IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
                RAISE e_no_rows;
            END IF;
        END;
    END LOOP;
EXCEPTION
    WHEN e_integrity THEN ...
    WHEN e_no_rows THEN ...
END;
```

ORACLE

8-19

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Propagating an Exception in a Subblock

When a subblock handles an exception, it terminates normally, and control resumes in the enclosing block immediately after the subblock END statement.

However, if PL/SQL raises an exception and the current block does not have a handler for that exception, the exception propagates in successive enclosing blocks until it finds a handler. If none of these blocks handle the exception, an unhandled exception in the host environment results.

When the exception propagates to an enclosing block, the remaining executable actions in that block are bypassed.

One advantage of this behavior is that you can enclose statements that require their own exclusive error handling in their own block, while leaving more general exception handling to the enclosing block.

Observe in the example that the exceptions, `e_no_rows` and `e_integrity`, are declared in the outer block. In the inner block, when the `e_no_rows` exception is raised, PL/SQL looks for the exception in the sub block. Because the exception is not declared in the subblock, the exception propagates to the outer block, where PL/SQL finds the declaration.

The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

Syntax:

```
raise_application_error (error_number,  
                        message[, {TRUE | FALSE}]);
```

- You can use this procedure to issue user-defined error messages from stored subprograms.
- You can report errors to your application and avoid returning unhandled exceptions.

ORACLE

8-20

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

Use the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure to communicate a predefined exception interactively by returning a nonstandard error code and error message. With RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR, you can report errors to your application and avoid returning unhandled exceptions.

In the syntax:

<i>error_number</i>	is a user-specified number for the exception between –20000 and –20999.
<i>message</i>	is the user-specified message for the exception. It is a character string up to 2,048 bytes long.
TRUE FALSE	is an optional Boolean parameter (If TRUE, the error is placed on the stack of previous errors. If FALSE, the default, the error replaces all previous errors.)

The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

- **Used in two different places:**
 - Executable section
 - Exception section
- **Returns error conditions to the user in a manner consistent with other Oracle server errors**

ORACLE

8-21

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure (continued)

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR can be used in either (or both) the executable section and the exception section of a PL/SQL program. The returned error is consistent with how the Oracle server produces a predefined, nonpredefined, or user-defined error. The error number and message is displayed to the user.

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR

Executable section:

```
BEGIN
...
DELETE FROM employees
  WHERE manager_id = v_mgr;
IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
  RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20202,
    'This is not a valid manager');
END IF;
...
```

Exception section:

```
...
EXCEPTION
  WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN
    RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR (-20201,
      'Manager is not a valid employee.');
```

```
END;
```

ORACLE

8-22

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Example

The slide shows that the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure can be used in both the executable and exception sections of a PL/SQL program.

Here is another example of a RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure that can be used in both the executable and exception sections of a PL/SQL program:

```
DECLARE
  e_name EXCEPTION;
  PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT (e_name, -20999);
BEGIN
...
DELETE FROM employees
  WHERE last_name = 'Higgins';
IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
  RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20999, 'This is not a valid last
name');
END IF;
EXCEPTION
  WHEN e_name THEN
    -- handle the error
    ...
END;
/
```


Summary

- **Exception types:**
 - **Predefined Oracle server error**
 - **Nonpredefined Oracle server error**
 - **User-defined error**
- **Exception trapping**
- **Exception handling:**
 - **Trap the exception within the PL/SQL block.**
 - **Propagate the exception.**

ORACLE

8-23

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Summary

In PL/SQL, a warning or error condition is called an exception. Predefined exceptions are error conditions that are defined by the Oracle server. Nonpredefined exceptions are any other standard Oracle Server Error. User-defined exceptions are exceptions specific to your application. Examples of predefined exceptions include division by zero (`ZERO_DIVIDE`) and out of memory (`STORAGE_ERROR`). Exceptions without defined names can be assigned names, using the `PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT` statement.

You can define exceptions of your own in the declarative part of any PL/SQL block, subprogram, or package. For example, you can define an exception named `INSUFFICIENT_FUNDS` to flag overdrawn bank accounts. User-defined exceptions must be given names.

When an error occurs, an exception is raised. That is, normal execution stops and control transfers to the exception-handling part of your PL/SQL block or subprogram. Internal exceptions are raised implicitly (automatically) by the run-time system. User-defined exceptions must be raised explicitly by `RAISE` statements, which can also raise predefined exceptions.

To handle raised exceptions, you write separate routines called exception handlers. After an exception handler runs, the current block stops executing and the enclosing block resumes with the next statement. If there is no enclosing block, control returns to the host environment.

Practice 8 Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- **Handling named exceptions**
- **Creating and invoking user-defined exceptions**

ORACLE

8-24

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Practice 8 Overview

In this practice, you create exception handlers for specific situations.

Practice 8

1. Write a PL/SQL block to select the name of the employee with a given salary value.
 - a. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the salary.
 - b. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a `iSQL*Plus` substitution variable. If the salary entered returns more than one row, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the `MESSAGES` table the message “More than one employee with a salary of `<salary>`.”
 - c. If the salary entered does not return any rows, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the `MESSAGES` table the message “No employee with a salary of `<salary>`.”
 - d. If the salary entered returns only one row, insert into the `MESSAGES` table the employee’s name and the salary amount.
 - e. Handle any other exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the `MESSAGES` table the message “Some other error occurred.”
 - f. Test the block for a variety of test cases. Display the rows from the `MESSAGES` table to check whether the PL/SQL block has executed successfully. Some sample output is shown below.

RESULTS
More than one employee with a salary of 6000
No employee with a salary of 5000
More than one employee with a salary of 7000
No employee with a salary of 2000

2. Modify the code in `p3q3.sql` to add an exception handler.
 - a. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the department ID and department location. Pass the values to the PL/SQL block through a `iSQL*Plus` substitution variables.
 - b. Write an exception handler for the error to pass a message to the user that the specified department does not exist. Use a bind variable to pass the message to the user.
 - c. Execute the PL/SQL block by entering a department that does not exist.

G_MESSAGE
Department 200 is an invalid department

Practice 8 (continued)

3. Write a PL/SQL block that prints the number of employees who earn plus or minus \$100 of the salary value set for an *iSQL**Plus substitution variable. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the salary value. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL**Plus substitution variable.
 - a. If there is no employee within that salary range, print a message to the user indicating that is the case. Use an exception for this case.
 - b. If there are one or more employees within that range, the message should indicate how many employees are in that salary range.
 - c. Handle any other exception with an appropriate exception handler. The message should indicate that some other error occurred.

```
DEFINE p_sal = 7000
```

```
DEFINE p_sal = 2500
```

```
DEFINE p_sal = 6500
```

G_MESSAGE

There is/are 4 employee(s) with a salary between 6900 and 7100

G_MESSAGE

There is/are 12 employee(s) with a salary between 2400 and 2600

G_MESSAGE

There is/are 3 employee(s) with a salary between 6400 and 6600

A

Practice Solutions

Practice 1 Solutions

1. Evaluate each of the following declarations. Determine which of them are *not* legal and explain why.

a. DECLARE

```
v_id          NUMBER(4);
```

Legal

b. DECLARE

```
v_x, v_y, v_z  VARCHAR2(10);
```

Illegal because only one identifier per declaration is allowed.

c. DECLARE

```
v_birthdate    DATE NOT NULL;
```

Illegal because the NOT NULL variable must be initialized.

d. DECLARE

```
v_in_stock BOOLEAN := 1;
```

Illegal because 1 is not a Boolean expression.

PL/SQL returns the following error:

PLS-00382: expression is of wrong type

Practice 1 Solutions (continued)

2. In each of the following assignments, indicate whether the statement is valid and what the valid data type of the result will be.

a. `v_days_to_go := v_due_date - SYSDATE;`

Valid; Number

b. `v_sender := USER || ': ' || TO_CHAR(v_dept_no);`

Valid; Character string

c. `v_sum := $100,000 + $250,000;`

Illegal; PL/SQL cannot convert special symbols from VARCHAR2 to NUMBER.

d. `v_flag := TRUE;`

Valid; Boolean

e. `v_n1 := v_n2 > (2 * v_n3);`

Valid; Boolean

f. `v_value := NULL;`

Valid; Any scalar data type

3. Create an anonymous block to output the phrase “My PL/SQL Block Works” to the screen.

```
VARIABLE g_message VARCHAR2(30)
BEGIN
    :g_message := 'My PL/SQL Block Works';
END;
/
PRINT g_message
```

Alternate Solution:

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
BEGIN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('My PL/SQL Block Works');
END;
/
```

Practice 1 Solutions (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercise:

4. Create a block that declares two variables. Assign the value of these PL/SQL variables to *iSQL*Plus* host variables and print the results of the PL/SQL variables to the screen. Execute your PL/SQL block. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named `p1q4.sql`, by clicking the **Save Script** button. Remember to save the script with a `.sql` extension.

V_CHAR Character (variable length)

V_NUM Number

Assign values to these variables as follows:

Variable	Value
----------	-------

-----	-----
-------	-------

V_CHAR	The literal '42 is the answer'
--------	--------------------------------

V_NUM	The first two characters from V_CHAR
-------	--------------------------------------

```
VARIABLE g_char VARCHAR2(30)
VARIABLE g_num  NUMBER
DECLARE
    v_char VARCHAR2(30);
    v_num  NUMBER(11,2);
BEGIN
    v_char := '42 is the answer';
    v_num  := TO_NUMBER(SUBSTR(v_char,1,2));
    :g_char := v_char;
    :g_num  := v_num;
END;
/
PRINT g_char
PRINT g_num
```


Practice 2 Solutions

```
DECLARE
    v_weight    NUMBER(3) := 600;
    v_message    VARCHAR2(255) := 'Product 10012';
BEGIN
    /*SUBBLOCK*/

    DECLARE
        v_weight    NUMBER(3) := 1;
        v_message    VARCHAR2(255) := 'Product 11001';
        v_new_locn    VARCHAR2(50) := 'Europe';
    BEGIN
        v_weight := v_weight + 1;
        v_new_locn := 'Western ' || v_new_locn;
    END;

    v_weight := v_weight + 1;
    v_message := v_message || ' is in stock';
    v_new_locn := 'Western ' || v_new_locn;
END;
/
```

①

→

②

→

1. Evaluate the PL/SQL block above and determine the data type and value of each of the following variables according to the rules of scoping.
 - a. The value of V_WEIGHT at position 1 is:
2
The data type is NUMBER.
 - b. The value of V_NEW_LOCN at position 1 is:
Western Europe
The data type is VARCHAR2 .
 - c. The value of V_WEIGHT at position 2 is:
601
The data type is NUMBER .
 - d. The value of V_MESSAGE at position 2 is:
Product 10012 is in stock
The data type is VARCHAR2 .
 - e. The value of V_NEW_LOCN at position 2 is:
Illegal because v_new_locn is not visible outside the subblock.

Practice 2 Solutions (continued)

Scope Example

```
DECLARE
    v_customer      VARCHAR2(50) := 'Womansport';
    v_credit_rating  VARCHAR2(50) := 'EXCELLENT';
BEGIN
    DECLARE
        v_customer  NUMBER(7) := 201;
        v_name       VARCHAR2(25) := 'Unisports';
    BEGIN
        (v_customer, (v_name, (v_credit_rating)
    END;

    (v_customer) (v_name) (v_credit_rating)

END;
/
```

Practice 2 Solutions (continued)

2. Suppose you embed a subblock within a block, as shown on the previous page. You declare two variables, V_CUSTOMER and V_CREDIT_RATING, in the main block. You also declare two variables, V_CUSTOMER and V_NAME, in the subblock. Determine the values and data types for each of the following cases.

- a. The value of V_CUSTOMER in the subblock is:

201

The data type is NUMBER.

- b. The value of V_NAME in the subblock is:

Unisports and

The data type is VARCHAR2.

- c. The value of V_CREDIT_RATING in the subblock is:

EXCELLENT

The data type is VARCHAR2.

- d. The value of V_CUSTOMER in the main block is:

Womansport

The data type is VARCHAR2.

- e. The value of V_NAME in the main block is:

V_NAME is not visible in the main block and you would see an error.

- f. The value of V_CREDIT_RATING in the main block is:

EXCELLENT

The data type is VARCHAR2.

Practice 2 Solutions (continued)

3. Create and execute a PL/SQL block that accepts two numbers through *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables.

- a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the two values.

```
DEFINE p_num1=2 -- example
DEFINE p_num2=4 -- example
```

- b. Pass these two values defined in step a above, to the PL/SQL block through *iSQL*Plus* substitution variables. The first number should be divided by the second number and have the second number added to the result. The result should be stored in a PL/SQL variable and printed on the screen.

Note: SET VERIFY OFF in the PL/SQL block.

```
SET ECHO OFF
SET VERIFY OFF
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    v_num1    NUMBER(9,2) := &p_num1;
    v_num2    NUMBER(9,2) := &p_num2;
    v_result  NUMBER(9,2) ;
BEGIN
    v_result := (v_num1/v_num2) + v_num2;
    /* Printing the PL/SQL variable */
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (v_result);
END;
/
SET SERVEROUTPUT OFF
SET VERIFY ON
SET ECHO ON
```

Practice 2 Solutions (continued)

4. Build a PL/SQL block that computes the total compensation for one year.
 - a. The annual salary and the annual bonus percentage values are defined using the `DEFINE` command.
 - b. Pass the values defined in the above step to the PL/SQL block through `iSQL*Plus` substitution variables. The bonus must be converted from a whole number to a decimal (for example, 15 to .15). If the salary is `null`, set it to zero before computing the total compensation. Execute the PL/SQL block. *Reminder:* Use the `NVL` function to handle `null` values.

Note: Total compensation is the sum of the annual salary and the annual bonus.

Method 1: When an `iSQL*Plus` variable is used:

```
a. VARIABLE g_total NUMBER
   DEFINE p_salary=50000
   DEFINE p_bonus=10

b. SET VERIFY OFF

   DECLARE
       v_salary NUMBER := &p_salary;
       v_bonus  NUMBER := &p_bonus;
   BEGIN
       :g_total := NVL(v_salary, 0) * (1 + NVL(v_bonus, 0) / 100);
   END;
   /
   PRINT g_total
   SET VERIFY ON
```

Alternate Solution: When a PL/SQL variable is used:

```
a. DEFINE p_salary=50000
   DEFINE p_bonus=10

b. SET VERIFY OFF
   SET SERVEROUTPUT ON

   DECLARE
       v_salary NUMBER := &p_salary;
       v_bonus  NUMBER := &p_bonus;
   BEGIN
       dbms_output.put_line(TO_CHAR(NVL(v_salary, 0) *
                                     (1 + NVL(v_bonus, 0) / 100));
   END;
   /
   SET VERIFY ON
   SET SERVEROUTPUT OFF
```

Practice 3 Solutions

1. Create a PL/SQL block that selects the maximum department number in the DEPARTMENTS table and stores it in an iSQL*Plus variable. Print the results to the screen. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named p3q1.sql by clicking the Save Script button. Save the script with a .sql extension.

```
VARIABLE g_max_deptno NUMBER
DECLARE
    v_max_deptno  NUMBER;
BEGIN
    SELECT max(department_id)
    INTO v_max_deptno
    FROM departments;
    :g_max_deptno := v_max_deptno;
END;
/
PRINT g_max_deptno
```

Alternate Solution:

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    v_max_deptno NUMBER;
BEGIN
    SELECT MAX(department_id) INTO v_max_deptno FROM departments;
    dbms_output.put_line(v_max_deptno);
END;
/
```

2. Modify the PL/SQL block you created in exercise 1 to insert a new department into the DEPARTMENTS table. Save the PL/SQL block in a file named p3q2.sql by clicking the Save Script button. Save the script with a .sql extension.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the department name. Name the new department Education.

```
SET ECHO OFF
SET VERIFY OFF
DEFINE p_dname = Education
```
 - b. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a iSQL*Plus substitution variable. Rather than printing the department number retrieved from exercise 1, add 10 to it and use it as the department number for the new department.
 - c. Leave the location number as null for now.

Practice 3 Solutions (continued)

```
DECLARE
    v_max_deptno departments.department_id%TYPE;
BEGIN
    SELECT MAX(department_id) + 10
    INTO v_max_deptno
    FROM departments;
    INSERT INTO departments (department_id, department_name,
        location_id)
    VALUES (v_max_deptno, '&p_dname', NULL);
    COMMIT;
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
SET ECHO ON
```

- d. Execute the PL/SQL block.
- e. Display the new department that you created.

```
SELECT *
FROM departments
WHERE department_name = 'Education';
```

- 3. Create a PL/SQL block that updates the location ID for the new department that you added in the previous practice. Save your PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q3.sql` by clicking the Save Script button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.

- a. Use an *iSQL*Plus* variable for the department ID number that you added in the previous practice.
- b. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the location ID. Name the new location ID 1700.

```
SET VERIFY OFF
DEFINE p_deptno = 280
DEFINE p_loc = 1700
```

- c. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable. Test the PL/SQL block.

```
BEGIN
    UPDATE departments
    SET location_id = &p_loc
    WHERE department_id = &p_deptno;
    COMMIT;
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
```

- d. Display the department that you updated.

```
SELECT * FROM departments
WHERE department_id = &p_deptno;
```

Practice 3 Solutions (continued)

4. Create a PL/SQL block that deletes the department that you created in exercise 2. Save the PL/SQL block in a file named `p3q4.sql` by clicking the `Save Script` button. Save the script with a `.sql` extension.

- a. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the department ID.

```
SET VERIFY OFF  
VARIABLE g_result VARCHAR2(40)  
DEFINE p_deptno = 280
```

- b. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a `iSQL*Plus` substitution variable. Print to the screen the number of rows affected.

- c. Test the PL/SQL block.

```
DECLARE  
    v_result NUMBER(2);  
BEGIN  
    DELETE  
    FROM      departments  
    WHERE     department_id = &p_deptno;  
    v_result := SQL%ROWCOUNT;  
    :g_result := (TO_CHAR(v_result) || ' row(s) deleted.');
```

```
COMMIT;  
END;  
/  
PRINT g_result  
SET VERIFY ON
```

- d. Confirm that the department has been deleted.

```
SELECT  *  
FROM    departments  
WHERE   department_id = 280;
```


Practice 4 Solutions

1. Execute the command in the file lab04_1.sql to create the MESSAGES table. Write a PL/SQL block to insert numbers into the MESSAGES table.

```
CREATE TABLE messages (results VARCHAR2 (60));
```

- a. Insert the numbers 1 to 10, excluding 6 and 8.
- b. Commit before the end of the block.

```
BEGIN  
FOR i IN 1..10 LOOP  
    IF i = 6 or i = 8 THEN  
        null;  
    ELSE  
        INSERT INTO messages(results)  
        VALUES (i);  
    END IF;  
    COMMIT;  
END LOOP;  
END;  
/
```

Note: *i* is being implicitly converted. A better way to code would be to explicitly convert the NUMBER to VARCHAR2.

- c. Select from the MESSAGES table to verify that your PL/SQL block worked.

```
SELECT *  
FROM messages;
```

2. Create a PL/SQL block that computes the commission amount for a given employee based on the employee's salary.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the employee ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a <SQL>*Plus substitution variable.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON  
SET VERIFY OFF  
DEFINE p_empno = 100
```

- b. If the employee's salary is less than \$5,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 10% of the salary.
- c. If the employee's salary is between \$5,000 and \$10,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 15% of the salary.
- d. If the employee's salary exceeds \$10,000, display the bonus amount for the employee as 20% of the salary.
- e. If the employee's salary is NULL, display the bonus amount for the employee as 0.
- f. Test the PL/SQL block for each case using the following test cases, and check each bonus amount.

Note: Include SET VERIFY OFF in your solution.

Practice 4 Solutions (continued)

```
DECLARE
    v_empno      employees.employee_id%TYPE := &p_empno;
    v_sal         employees.salary%TYPE;
    v_bonus_per   NUMBER(7,2);
    v_bonus       NUMBER(7,2);
BEGIN
    SELECT salary
    INTO v_sal
    FROM employees
    WHERE employee_id = v_empno;
    IF v_sal < 5000 THEN
        v_bonus_per := .10;
    ELSIF v_sal BETWEEN 5000 and 10000 THEN
        v_bonus_per := .15;
    ELSIF v_sal > 10000 THEN
        v_bonus_per := .20;
    ELSE
        v_bonus_per := 0;
    END IF;
    v_bonus := v_sal * v_bonus_per;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('The bonus for the employee with employee_id '
    || v_empno || ' and salary ' || v_sal || ' is ' || v_bonus);
END;
/
```

Employee Number	Salary	Resulting Bonus
100	24000	4800
149	10500	2100
178	7000	1050

Practice 4 Solutions (continued)

If you have time, complete the following exercises:

3. Create an EMP table that is a replica of the EMPLOYEES table. You can do this by executing the script lab04_3.sql. Add a new column, STARS, of VARCHAR2 data type and length 50 to the EMP table for storing asterisk (*).

```
ALTER TABLE emp  
ADD stars VARCHAR2(50);
```

4. Create a PL/SQL block that rewards an employee by appending an asterisk in the STARS column for every \$1000 of the employee's salary. Save your PL/SQL block in a file called p4q4.sql by clicking on the Save Script button. Remember to save the script with a .sql extension.

- a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the employee ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a &SQL*Plus substitution variable.

```
SET VERIFY OFF
```

```
DEFINE p_empno = 104
```

- b. Initialize a v_asterisk variable that contains a NULL.
- c. Append an asterisk to the string for every \$1000 of the salary amount. For example, if the employee has a salary amount of \$8000, the string of asterisks should contain eight asterisks. If the employee has a salary amount of \$12500, the string of asterisks should contain 13 asterisks.
- d. Update the STARS column for the employee with the string of asterisks.
- e. Commit.
- f. Test the block for the following values:

```
DEFINE p_empno=104
```

```
DEFINE p_empno=174
```

```
DEFINE p_empno=176
```

Note: SET VERIFY OFF in the PL/SQL block

Practice 4 Solutions (continued)

```
DECLARE
    v_empno          emp.employee_id%TYPE := TO_NUMBER(&p_empno);
    v_asterisk        emp.stars%TYPE := NULL;
    v_sal             emp.salary%TYPE;
BEGIN
    SELECT NVL(ROUND(salary/1000), 0)
    INTO v_sal
    FROM emp
    WHERE employee_id = v_empno;
    FOR i IN 1..v_sal LOOP
        v_asterisk := v_asterisk || '*';
    END LOOP;
    UPDATE emp
    SET stars = v_asterisk
    WHERE employee_id = v_empno;
    COMMIT;
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
```

- g. Display the rows from the EMP table to verify whether your PL/SQL block has executed successfully.

```
SELECT employee_id,salary, stars
FROM emp
WHERE employee_id IN (104,174,176);
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	SALARY	STARS
104	6000	*****
174	11000	*****
176	8600	*****

Practice 5 Solutions

1. Write a PL/SQL block to print information about a given country.
 - a. Declare a PL/SQL record based on the structure of the COUNTRIES table.
 - b. Use the DEFINE command to provide the country ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a &SQL*Plus substitution variable.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
```

```
SET VERIFY OFF
```

```
DEFINE p_countryid = CA
```

- c. Use DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE to print selected information about the country. A sample output is shown below.

```
DECLARE
```

```
    country_record countries%ROWTYPE;
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    SELECT      *
```

```
    INTO  country_record
```

```
    FROM  countries
```

```
    WHERE country_id = UPPER('&p_countryid');
```

```
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Country Id: ' ||
                           country_record.country_id || ' Country Name: ' ||
                           country_record.country_name || ' Region: ' ||
                           country_record.region_id);
```

```
END;
```

```
/
```

- d. Execute and test the PL/SQL block for the countries with the IDs CA, DE, UK, US

Practice 5 Solutions (continued)

2. Create a PL/SQL block to retrieve the name of each department from the DEPARTMENTS table and print each department name on the screen, incorporating an INDEX BY table. Save the code in a file called p5q2.sql by clicking the Save Script button. Save the script with a .sql extension.
 - a. Declare an INDEX BY table, MY_DEPT_TABLE, to temporarily store the name of the departments.
 - b. Using a loop, retrieve the name of all departments currently in the DEPARTMENTS table and store them in the INDEX BY table. Use the following table to assign the value for DEPARTMENT_ID based on the value of the counter used in the loop.

COUNTER	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	10
2	20
3	50
4	60
5	80
6	90
7	110

- c. Using another loop, retrieve the department names from the PL/SQL table and print them to the screen, using DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    TYPE DEPT_TABLE_TYPE IS
        TABLE OF departments.department_name%TYPE
        INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
    my_dept_table    dept_table_type;
    v_count          NUMBER (2);
    v_deptno         departments.department_id%TYPE;
BEGIN
    SELECT COUNT(*) INTO    v_count FROM    departments;
    FOR i IN 1..v_count
    LOOP
        IF i = 1 THEN
            v_deptno := 10;
        ELSIF i = 2 THEN
            v_deptno := 20;
        ELSIF i = 3 THEN
            v_deptno := 50;
        ELSIF i = 4 THEN
            v_deptno := 60;
        ELSIF i = 5 THEN
            v_deptno := 80;
        ELSIF i = 6 THEN
            v_deptno := 90;
        ELSIF i = 7 THEN
            v_deptno := 110;
        END IF;
```

Practice 5 Solutions (continued)

```
        SELECT department_name INTO my_dept_table(i) FROM departments
        WHERE department_id = v_deptno;
    END LOOP;
    FOR i IN 1..v_count
    LOOP
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (my_dept_table(i));
    END LOOP;
END;
/
SET SERVEROUTPUT OFF
```

If you have time, complete the following exercise.

3. Modify the block you created in practice 2 to retrieve all information about each department from the DEPARTMENTS table and print the information to the screen, incorporating an INDEX BY table of records.
 - a. Declare an INDEX BY table, MY_DEPT_TABLE, to temporarily store the number, name, and location of all the departments.
 - b. Using a loop, retrieve all department information currently in the DEPARTMENTS table and store it in the PL/SQL table. Use the following table to assign the value for DEPARTMENT_ID based on the value of the counter used in the loop. Exit the loop when the counter reaches the value 7.

COUNTER	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	10
2	20
3	50
4	60
5	80
6	90
7	110

- c. Using another loop, retrieve the department information from the PL/SQL table and print it to the screen, using DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE.

Practice 5 Solutions (continued)

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    TYPE dept_table_type is table of departments%ROWTYPE
    INDEX BY BINARY_INTEGER;
    my_dept_table      dept_table_type;
    v_deptno departments.department_id%TYPE;
    v_count NUMBER := 7;
BEGIN
    FOR i IN 1..v_count
    LOOP
        IF i = 1 THEN
            v_deptno := 10;
        ELSIF i = 2 THEN
            v_deptno := 20;
        ELSIF i = 3 THEN
            v_deptno := 50;
        ELSIF i = 4 THEN
            v_deptno := 60;
        ELSIF i = 5 THEN
            v_deptno := 80;
        ELSIF i = 6 THEN
            v_deptno := 90;
        ELSIF i = 7 THEN
            v_deptno := 110;
        END IF;
        SELECT *
        INTO my_dept_table(i)
        FROM departments
        WHERE department_id = v_deptno;
    END LOOP;
    FOR i IN 1..v_count
    LOOP
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Department Number: ' ||
                               my_dept_table(i).department_id
                               || ' Department Name: ' || my_dept_table(i).department_name
                               || ' Manager Id: ' || my_dept_table(i).manager_id
                               || ' Location Id: ' || my_dept_table(i).location_id);
    END LOOP;
END;
/
```


Practice 6 Solutions

1. Run the command in the script lab06_1.sql to create a new table for storing the salaries of the employees.

```
CREATE TABLE top_dogs
(salary NUMBER(8,2));
```

2. Create a PL/SQL block that determines the top employees with respect to salaries.

- a. Accept a number n from the user where n represents the number of top n earners from the EMPLOYEES table. For example, to view the top five earners, enter 5.

Note: Use the DEFINE command to provide the value for n . Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable.

```
DELETE FROM top_dogs;
```

```
DEFINE p_num = 5
```

- b. In a loop use the *iSQL*Plus* substitution parameter created in step 1 and gather the salaries of the top n people from the EMPLOYEES table. There should be no duplication in the salaries. If two employees earn the same salary, the salary should be picked up only once.
- c. Store the salaries in the TOP_DOGS table.
- d. Test a variety of special cases, such as $n = 0$ or where n is greater than the number of employees in the EMPLOYEES table. Empty the TOP_DOGS table after each test. The output shown represents the five highest salaries in the EMPLOYEES table.

```
DECLARE
```

```
  v_num          NUMBER(3) := &p_num;
  v_sal          employees.salary%TYPE;
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT distinct salary
    FROM employees
    ORDER BY salary DESC;
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
  OPEN emp_cursor;
  FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_sal;
  WHILE emp_cursor%ROWCOUNT <= v_num AND emp_cursor%FOUND LOOP
    INSERT INTO top_dogs (salary)
    VALUES (v_sal);
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_sal;
  END LOOP;
  CLOSE emp_cursor;
  COMMIT;
END;
/
SELECT * FROM top_dogs;
```

Practice 6 Solutions (continued)

3. Create a PL/SQL block that does the following:

- a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the department ID. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a <SQL*Plus substitution variable>.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
```

```
SET ECHO OFF
```

```
DEFINE p_dept_no = 10
```

- b. In a PL/SQL block, retrieve the last name, salary and MANAGER ID of the employees working in that department.
- c. If the salary of the employee is less than 5000 and if the manager ID is either 101 or 124, display the message <<last_name>> Due for a raise. Otherwise, display a message <<last_name>> Not due for a raise.

Note: SET ECHO OFF to avoid displaying the PL/SQL code every time you execute the script

- d. Test the PL/SQL block for the following cases:

Department ID	Message
10	Whalen Due for a raise
20	Hartstein Not Due for a raise Fay Not Due for a raise
50	Weiss Not Due for a raise Fripp Due for a raise Kaufling Due for a raise Vollman Due for a raise Mourgas Due for a raise . . .
80	Russel Not Due for a raise Partners Not Due for a raise Errazuriz Not Due for a raise Cambrault Not Due for a raise . . .

Practice 6 Solutions (continued)

```
DECLARE
    v_deptno  NUMBER(4) := &p_dept_no;
    v_ename   employees.last_name%TYPE;
    v_sal     employees.salary%TYPE;
    v_manager employees.manager_id%TYPE;
    CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT      last_name, salary, manager_id
    FROM        employees
    WHERE       department_id = v_deptno;
BEGIN
    OPEN emp_cursor;
    FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_ename, v_sal, v_manager;
    WHILE emp_cursor%FOUND LOOP
        IF v_sal < 5000 AND (v_manager = 101 OR v_manager = 124) THEN
            DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (v_ename || ' Due for a raise');
        ELSE
            DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (v_ename || ' Not Due for a raise');
        END IF;
        FETCH emp_cursor INTO v_ename, v_sal, v_manager;
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE emp_cursor;
END;
/
SET SERVEROUTPUT OFF
```

Practice 7 Solutions

1. In a loop, use a cursor to retrieve the department number and the department name from the DEPARTMENTS table for those departments whose DEPARTMENT_ID is less than 100. Pass the department number to another cursor to retrieve from the EMPLOYEES table the details of employee last name, job, hire date, and salary of those employees whose EMPLOYEE_ID is less than 120 and who work in that department.

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
```

```
DECLARE
```

```
    CURSOR dept_cursor IS
```

```
        SELECT department_id,department_name
```

```
        FROM    departments
```

```
        WHERE department_id < 100
```

```
        ORDER BY    department_id;
```

```
    CURSOR emp_cursor(v_deptno NUMBER) IS
```

```
        SELECT last_name,job_id,hire_date,salary
```

```
        FROM    employees
```

```
        WHERE    department_id = v_deptno
```

```
        AND employee_id < 120;
```

```
        v_current_deptno departments.department_id%TYPE;
```

```
        v_current_dname  departments.department_name%TYPE;
```

```
        v_ename employees.last_name%TYPE;
```

```
        v_job employees.job_id%TYPE;
```

```
        v_hiredate employees.hire_date%TYPE;
```

```
        v_sal employees.salary%TYPE;
```

```
        v_line  varchar2(100);
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    v_line := ' '
```

```
        ';
```

```
    OPEN dept_cursor;
```

```
        LOOP
```

```
            FETCH dept_cursor INTO
```

```
            v_current_deptno,v_current_dname;
```

```
            EXIT WHEN dept_cursor%NOTFOUND;
```

```
            DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('Department Number : ' ||
```

```
            v_current_deptno || ' Department Name : ' || v_current_dname);
```

Practice 7 Solutions (continued)

```
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_line);
        IF emp_cursor%ISOPEN THEN
            CLOSE emp_cursor;
        END IF;

        OPEN emp_cursor (v_current_deptno);

        LOOP
            FETCH emp_cursor INTO
v_ename,v_job,v_hiredate,v_sal;
            EXIT WHEN emp_cursor%NOTFOUND;
            DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE (v_ename || ' ' || v_job || ' '
|| v_hiredate || ' ' || v_sal);
            END LOOP;
        IF emp_cursor%ISOPEN THEN
            CLOSE emp_cursor;
        END IF;
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_line);
        END LOOP;
        IF emp_cursor%ISOPEN THEN
            CLOSE emp_cursor;
        END IF;
        CLOSE dept_cursor;
END;
/
SET SERVEROUTPUT OFF
```

Alternative Solution:

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
    CURSOR DEPT_CUR IS
        SELECT DEPARTMENT_ID DEPTNO, DEPARTMENT_NAME DNAME
        FROM DEPARTMENTS
        WHERE DEPARTMENT_ID < 100;
    CURSOR EMP_CUR (P_DEPTNO NUMBER) IS
        SELECT * FROM EMPLOYEES
        WHERE DEPARTMENT_ID = P_DEPTNO AND EMPLOYEE_ID < 120;
```

Practice 7 Solutions (continued)

```
BEGIN
  FOR DEPT_REC IN DEPT_CUR LOOP
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE
      ('DEPARTMENT NUMBER: ' || DEPT_REC.DEPTNO || '
DEPARTMENT NAME: ' || DEPT_REC.DNAME);
    FOR EMP_REC IN EMP_CUR(DEPT_REC.DEPTNO) LOOP
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE
        (EMP_REC.LAST_NAME || ' ' || EMP_REC.JOB_ID || '
' || EMP_REC.HIRE_DATE || ' ' || EMP_REC.SALARY);
    END LOOP;
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(CHR(10));
END LOOP;
END;
/
```

Practice 7 Solutions (continued)

2. Modify the code in `sol04_4.sql` to incorporate a cursor using the `FOR UPDATE` and `WHERE CURRENT OF` functionality in cursor processing.

- a. Define the host variables.

```
SET VERIFY OFF
DEFINE p_empno = 104
```

- b. Execute the modified PL/SQL block

```
DECLARE
  v_empno emp.employee_id%TYPE := &p_empno;
  v_asterisk emp.stars%TYPE := NULL;
  CURSOR emp_cursor IS
    SELECT employee_id, NVL(ROUND(salary/1000), 0) sal
    FROM emp
    WHERE employee_id = v_empno
    FOR UPDATE;
BEGIN
  FOR emp_record IN emp_cursor LOOP
    FOR i IN 1..emp_record.sal LOOP
      v_asterisk := v_asterisk || '*';
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_asterisk);
    END LOOP;
    UPDATE emp
    SET stars = v_asterisk
    WHERE CURRENT OF emp_cursor;
    v_asterisk := NULL;
  END LOOP;
  COMMIT;
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
```

- c. Execute the following command to check if your PL/SQL block has worked successfully:

```
SELECT employee_id,salary,stars
FROM EMP
WHERE employee_id IN (176,174,104);
```

Practice 8 Solutions

1. Write a PL/SQL block to select the name of the employee with a given salary value.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the salary.
SET VERIFY OFF
DEFINE p_sal = 6000
 - b. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL*Plus* substitution variable. If the salary entered returns more than one row, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the MESSAGES table the message “More than one employee with a salary of <salary>.”
 - c. If the salary entered does not return any rows, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the MESSAGES table the message “No employee with a salary of <salary>.”
 - d. If the salary entered returns only one row, insert into the MESSAGES table the employee’s name and the salary amount.
 - e. Handle any other exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the MESSAGES table the message “Some other error occurred.”
 - f. Test the block for a variety of test cases. Display the rows from the MESSAGES table to check whether the PL/SQL block has executed successfully

```
DECLARE
    v_ename    employees.last_name%TYPE;
    v_sal      employees.salary%TYPE := &p_sal;
BEGIN
    SELECT      last_name
    INTO        v_ename
    FROM        employees
    WHERE       salary = v_sal;
    INSERT INTO messages (results)
    VALUES (v_ename || ' - ' || v_sal);
EXCEPTION
    WHEN no_data_found THEN
        INSERT INTO messages (results)
        VALUES ('No employee with a salary of ' || TO_CHAR(v_sal));
    WHEN too_many_rows THEN
        INSERT INTO messages (results)
        VALUES ('More than one employee with a salary of ' ||
                TO_CHAR(v_sal));
    WHEN others THEN
        INSERT INTO messages (results)
        VALUES ('Some other error occurred.');
```

```
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
```


Practice 8 Solutions (continued)

2. Modify the code in p3q3.sql to add an exception handler.
 - a. Use the DEFINE command to provide the department ID and department location. Pass the values to the PL/SQL block through a iSQL*Plus substitution variables.

```
SET VERIFY OFF
```

```
VARIABLE g_message VARCHAR2(100)
```

```
DEFINE p_deptno = 200
```

```
DEFINE p_loc = 1400
```

- b. Write an exception handler for the error to pass a message to the user that the specified department does not exist. Use a bind variable to pass the message to the user.
 - c. Execute the PL/SQL block by entering a department that does not exist.

```
DECLARE
```

```
    e_invalid_dept EXCEPTION;
```

```
    v_deptno          departments.department_id%TYPE := &p_deptno;
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    UPDATE departments
```

```
    SET location_id = &p_loc
```

```
    WHERE department_id = &p_deptno;
```

```
    COMMIT;
```

```
IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
```

```
    raise e_invalid_dept;
```

```
END IF;
```

```
EXCEPTION
```

```
    WHEN e_invalid_dept THEN
```

```
        :g_message := 'Department ' || TO_CHAR(v_deptno) || ' is an  
invalid department';
```

```
END;
```

```
/
```

```
SET VERIFY ON
```

```
PRINT g_message
```

Practice 8 Solutions (continued)

3. Write a PL/SQL block that prints the number of employees who earn plus or minus \$100 of the salary value set for an *iSQL**Plus substitution variable. Use the `DEFINE` command to provide the salary value. Pass the value to the PL/SQL block through a *iSQL**Plus substitution variable.

- a. If there is no employee within that salary range, print a message to the user indicating that is the case. Use an exception for this case.

```
VARIABLE g_message VARCHAR2(100)
```

```
SET VERIFY OFF
```

```
DEFINE p_sal = 7000
```

- b. If there are one or more employees within that range, the message should indicate how many employees are in that salary range.
- c. Handle any other exception with an appropriate exception handler. The message should indicate that some other error occurred.

```
DECLARE
```

```
  v_sal          employees.salary%TYPE := &p_sal;
```

```
  v_low_sal      employees.salary%TYPE := v_sal - 100;
```

```
  v_high_sal     employees.salary%TYPE := v_sal + 100;
```

```
  v_no_emp       NUMBER(7);
```

```
  e_no_emp_returned EXCEPTION;
```

```
  e_more_than_one_emp EXCEPTION;
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
  SELECT count(last_name)
```

```
  INTO   _no_emp
```

```
  FROM   employees
```

```
  WHERE  salary between v_low_sal and v_high_sal;
```

```
  IF v_no_emp = 0 THEN
```

```
    RAISE e_no_emp_returned;
```

```
  ELSIF v_no_emp > 0 THEN
```

```
    RAISE e_more_than_one_emp;
```

```
END IF;
```

Practice 8 Solutions (continued)

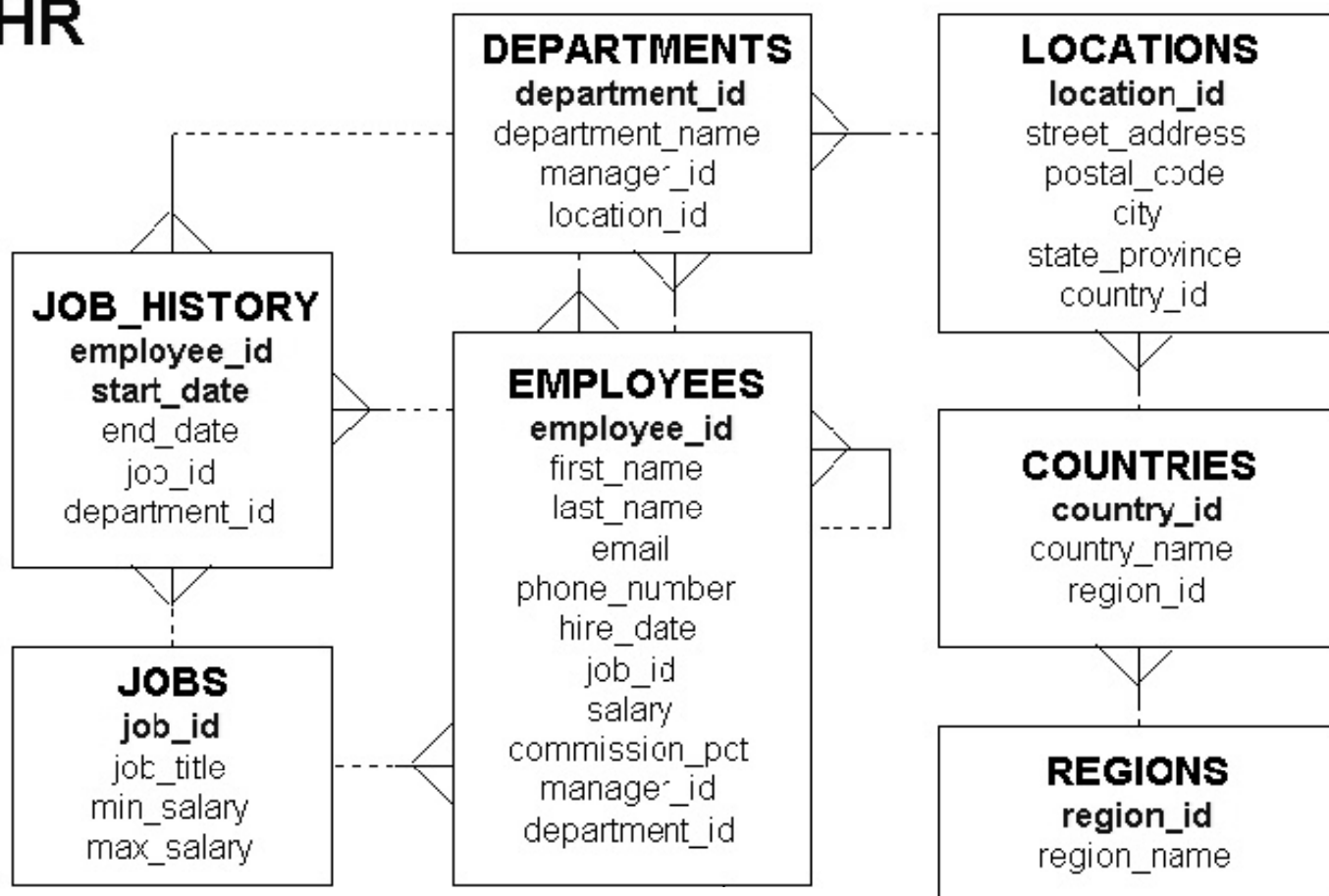
```
EXCEPTION
  WHEN e_no_emp_returned THEN
    :g_message := 'There is no employee salary between ' ||
                  TO_CHAR(v_low_sal) || ' and ' ||
                  TO_CHAR(v_high_sal);
  WHEN e_more_than_one_emp THEN
    :g_message := 'There is/are ' || TO_CHAR(v_no_emp) ||
                  ' employee(s) with a salary between ' ||
                  TO_CHAR(v_low_sal) || ' and ' ||
                  TO_CHAR(v_high_sal);
  WHEN others THEN
    :g_message := 'Some other error occurred.';
END;
/
SET VERIFY ON
PRINT g_message
```

B

Table Descriptions and Data

ENTITY RELATIONSHIP DIAGRAM

HR



Tables in the Schema

```
SELECT * FROM tab;
```

TNAME	TABTYPE	CLUSTERID
COUNTRIES	TABLE	
DEPARTMENTS	TABLE	
EMPLOYEES	TABLE	
EMP_DETAILS_VIEW	VIEW	
JOBS	TABLE	
JOB_HISTORY	TABLE	
LOCATIONS	TABLE	
REGIONS	TABLE	

8 rows selected.

REGIONS Table

```
DESCRIBE regions
```

Name	Null?	Type
REGION_ID	NOT NULL	NUMBER
REGION_NAME		VARCHAR2(25)

```
SELECT * FROM regions;
```

REGION_ID	REGION_NAME
1	Europe
2	Americas
3	Asia
4	Middle East and Africa

COUNTRIES Table

```
DESCRIBE countries
```

Name	Null?	Type
COUNTRY_ID	NOT NULL	CHAR(2)
COUNTRY_NAME		VARCHAR2(40)
REGION_ID		NUMBER

```
SELECT * FROM countries;
```

CO	COUNTRY_NAME	REGION_ID
AR	Argentina	2
AU	Australia	3
BE	Belgium	1
BR	Brazil	2
CA	Canada	2
CH	Switzerland	1
CN	China	3
DE	Germany	1
DK	Denmark	1
EG	Egypt	4
FR	France	1
HK	HongKong	3
IL	Israel	4
IN	India	3
CO	COUNTRY_NAME	REGION_ID
IT	Italy	1
JP	Japan	3
KW	Kuwait	4
MX	Mexico	2
NG	Nigeria	4
NL	Netherlands	1
SG	Singapore	3
UK	United Kingdom	1
US	United States of America	2
ZM	Zambia	4
ZW	Zimbabwe	4

25 rows selected.

LOCATIONS Table

```
DESCRIBE locations;
```

Name	Null?	Type
LOCATION_ID	NOT NULL	NUMBER(4)
STREET_ADDRESS		VARCHAR2(40)
POSTAL_CODE		VARCHAR2(12)
CITY	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(30)
STATE_PROVINCE		VARCHAR2(25)
COUNTRY_ID		CHAR(2)

```
SELECT * FROM locations;
```

LOCATION_ID	STREET_ADDRESS	POSTAL_CODE	CITY	STATE_PROVINCE	CO
1000	1297 Via Cola di Rie	00989	Roma		IT
1100	93091 Calle della Testa	10934	Venice		IT
1200	2017 Shinjuku-ku	1689	Tokyo	Tokyo Prefecture	JP
1300	9450 Kamiya-cho	6823	Hiroshima		JP
1400	2014 Jabberwocky Rd	26192	Southlake	Texas	US
1500	2011 Interiors Blvd	99236	South San Francisco	California	US
1600	2007 Zagora St	50090	South Brunswick	New Jersey	US
1700	2004 Charade Rd	98199	Seattle	Washington	US
1800	147 Spadina Ave	M5V 2L7	Toronto	Ontario	CA
1900	6092 Boxwood St	Y5W 9T2	Whitehorse	Yukon	CA
2000	40-5-12 Laogianggen	190518	Beijing		CN
2100	1298 Vileparle (E)	490231	Bombay	Maharashtra	IN
LOCATION_ID	STREET_ADDRESS	POSTAL_CODE	CITY	STATE_PROVINCE	CO
2400	8204 Arthur St		London		UK
2500	Magdalen Centre, The Oxford Science Park	OX9 9ZB	Oxford	Oxford	UK
2600	9702 Chester Road	09629850293	Stretford	Manchester	UK
2700	Schwanthalerstr. 7031	80925	Munich	Bavaria	DE
2800	Rua Frei Caneca 1360	01307-002	Sao Paulo	Sao Paulo	BR
2900	20 Rue des Corps-Saints	1730	Geneva	Geneve	CH
3000	Murtenstrasse 921	3095	Bern	BE	CH
3100	Pieter Breughelstraat 837	3029SK	Utrecht	Utrecht	NL
3200	Mariano Escobedo 9991	11932	Mexico City	Distrito Federal,	MX

23 rows selected.

DEPARTMENTS Table

DESCRIBE departments

Name	Null?	Type
DEPARTMENT_ID	NOT NULL	NUMBER(4)
DEPARTMENT_NAME	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(30)
MANAGER_ID		NUMBER(6)
LOCATION_ID		NUMBER(4)

SELECT * FROM departments;

DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
10	Administration	200	1700
20	Marketing	201	1800
30	Purchasing	114	1700
40	Human Resources	203	2400
50	Shipping	121	1500
60	IT	103	1400
70	Public Relations	204	2700
80	Sales	145	2500
90	Executive	100	1700
100	Finance	108	1700
110	Accounting	205	1700
120	Treasury		1700
130	Corporate Tax		1700
140	Control And Credit		1700
DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
150	Shareholder Services		1700
160	Benefits		1700
170	Manufacturing		1700
180	Construction		1700
190	Contracting		1700
200	Operations		1700
210	IT Support		1700
220	NOC		1700
230	IT Helpdesk		1700
240	Government Sales		1700
250	Retail Sales		1700
260	Recruiting		1700
270	Payroll		1700

27 rows selected.

JOBS Table

```
DESCRIBE jobs
```

Name	Null?	Type
JOB_ID	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(10)
JOB_TITLE	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(35)
MIN_SALARY		NUMBER(6)
MAX_SALARY		NUMBER(6)

```
SELECT * FROM jobs;
```

JOB_ID	JOB_TITLE	MIN_SALARY	MAX_SALARY
AD_PRES	President	20000	40000
AD_VP	Administration Vice President	15000	30000
AD_ASST	Administration Assistant	3000	6000
FI_MGR	Finance Manager	8200	16000
FI_ACCOUNT	Accountant	4200	9000
AC_MGR	Accounting Manager	8200	16000
AC_ACCOUNT	Public Accountant	4200	9000
SA_MAN	Sales Manager	10000	20000
SA_REP	Sales Representative	6000	12000
PU_MAN	Purchasing Manager	8000	15000
PU_CLERK	Purchasing Clerk	2500	5500
ST_MAN	Stock Manager	5500	8500
ST_CLERK	Stock Clerk	2000	5000
SH_CLERK	Shipping Clerk	2500	5500
JOB_ID	JOB_TITLE	MIN_SALARY	MAX_SALARY
IT_PROG	Programmer	4000	10000
MK_MAN	Marketing Manager	9000	15000
MK_REP	Marketing Representative	4000	9000
HR_REP	Human Resources Representative	4000	9000
PR_REP	Public Relations Representative	4500	10500

19 rows selected.

EMPLOYEES Table

DESCRIBE employees

Name	Null?	Type
EMPLOYEE_ID	NOT NULL	NUMBER(6)
FIRST_NAME		VARCHAR2(20)
LAST_NAME	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(25)
EMAIL	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(25)
PHONE_NUMBER		VARCHAR2(20)
HIRE_DATE	NOT NULL	DATE
JOB_ID	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(10)
SALARY		NUMBER(8,2)
COMMISSION_PCT		NUMBER(2,2)
MANAGER_ID		NUMBER(6)
DEPARTMENT_ID		NUMBER(4)

EMPLOYEES Table

The headings for columns COMMISSION_PCT, MANAGER_ID, and DEPARTMENT_ID are set to COMM, MGRID, and DEPTID in the following screenshot, to fit the table values across the page.

```
SELECT * FROM employees;
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
100	Steven	King	SKING	515.123.4567	17-JUN-87	AD_PRES	24000			90
101	Neena	Kochhar	NKOCHHAR	515.123.4568	21-SEP-89	AD_VP	17000		100	90
102	Lex	De Haan	LDEHAAN	515.123.4569	13-JAN-93	AD_VP	17000		100	90
103	Alexander	Hunold	AHUNOLD	590.423.4567	03-JAN-90	IT_PROG	9000		102	60
104	Bruce	Ernst	BERNST	590.423.4568	21-MAY-91	IT_PROG	6000		103	60
105	David	Austin	DAUSTIN	590.423.4569	25-JUN-97	IT_PROG	4800		103	60
106	Valli	Pataballa	VPATABAL	590.423.4560	05-FEB-98	IT_PROG	4800		103	60
107	Diana	Lorentz	DLORENTZ	590.423.5567	07-FEB-99	IT_PROG	4200		103	60
108	Nancy	Greenberg	NGREENBE	515.124.4569	17-AUG-94	FI_MGR	12000		101	100
109	Daniel	Faviet	DFAVET	515.124.4169	16-AUG-94	FI_ACCOUNT	9000		108	100
110	John	Chen	JCHEN	515.124.4269	28-SEP-97	FI_ACCOUNT	8200		108	100
111	Ismael	Sciarra	ISCIARRA	515.124.4369	30-SEP-97	FI_ACCOUNT	7700		108	100
112	Jose Manuel	Urman	JMURMAN	515.124.4469	07-MAR-98	FI_ACCOUNT	7800		108	100
113	Luis	Popp	LPOPP	515.124.4567	07-DEC-99	FI_ACCOUNT	6900		108	100
EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
114	Den	Raphaely	DRAPHEAL	515.127.4561	07-DEC-94	PU_MAN	11000		100	30
115	Alexander	Khoo	AKHOO	515.127.4562	18-MAY-95	PU_CLERK	3100		114	30
116	Shelli	Baida	SBIDA	515.127.4563	24-DEC-97	PU_CLERK	2900		114	30
117	Sigal	Tobias	STOBIAS	515.127.4564	24-JUL-97	PU_CLERK	2800		114	30
118	Guy	Himuro	GHIMURO	515.127.4565	15-NOV-98	PU_CLERK	2600		114	30
119	Karen	Colmenares	KCOLMENA	515.127.4566	10-AUG-99	PU_CLERK	2500		114	30
120	Matthew	Weiss	MWEISS	650.123.1234	18-JUL-96	ST_MAN	8000		100	50
121	Adam	Fripp	AFRIPP	650.123.2234	10-APR-97	ST_MAN	8200		100	50
122	Payam	Kaufling	PKAUFLIN	650.123.3234	01-MAY-95	ST_MAN	7900		100	50
123	Shanta	Vollman	SVOLLMAN	650.123.4234	10-OCT-97	ST_MAN	6500		100	50
124	Kevin	Mourgos	KMOURGOS	650.123.5234	16-NOV-99	ST_MAN	5800		100	50
125	Julia	Nayer	JNAYER	650.124.1214	16-JUL-97	ST_CLERK	3200		120	50
126	Irene	Mikkilineni	IMIKKILI	650.124.1224	28-SEP-98	ST_CLERK	2700		120	50
127	James	Landry	JLANDRY	650.124.1334	14-JAN-99	ST_CLERK	2400		120	50

EMPLOYEES Table (continued)

EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
128	Steven	Markle	SMARKLE	650.124.1434	08-MAR-00	ST_CLERK	2200		120	50
129	Laura	Bissot	LBISSOT	650.124.5234	20-AUG-97	ST_CLERK	3300		121	50
130	Mozhe	Atkinson	MATKINSO	650.124.6234	30-OCT-97	ST_CLERK	2800		121	50
131	James	Marlow	JAMRLOW	650.124.7234	16-FEB-97	ST_CLERK	2500		121	50
132	TJ	Olson	TJOLSON	650.124.8234	10-APR-99	ST_CLERK	2100		121	50
133	Jason	Mallin	JMALLIN	650.127.1934	14-JUN-96	ST_CLERK	3300		122	50
134	Michael	Rogers	MROGERS	650.127.1834	26-AUG-98	ST_CLERK	2900		122	50
135	Ki	Gee	KGEE	650.127.1734	12-DEC-99	ST_CLERK	2400		122	50
136	Hazel	Philtanker	HPHILTAN	650.127.1634	06-FEB-00	ST_CLERK	2200		122	50
137	Renske	Ladwig	RLADWIG	650.121.1234	14-JUL-95	ST_CLERK	3600		123	50
138	Stephen	Stiles	SSTILES	650.121.2034	26-OCT-97	ST_CLERK	3200		123	50
139	John	Seo	JSEO	650.121.2019	12-FEB-98	ST_CLERK	2700		123	50
140	Joshua	Patel	JPATEL	650.121.1834	06-APR-98	ST_CLERK	2500		123	50
141	Trenna	Rajs	TRAJS	650.121.8009	17-OCT-95	ST_CLERK	3500		124	50
EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
142	Curtis	Davies	CDAMIES	650.121.2994	29-JAN-97	ST_CLERK	3100		124	50
143	Randall	Matos	RMATOS	650.121.2874	15-MAR-98	ST_CLERK	2600		124	50
144	Peter	Vargas	PVARGAS	650.121.2004	09-JUL-98	ST_CLERK	2500		124	50
145	John	Russell	JRUSSEL	011.44.1344.429268	01-OCT-96	SA_MAN	14000	.4	100	80
146	Karen	Partners	KPARTNER	011.44.1344.467268	05-JAN-97	SA_MAN	13500	.3	100	80
147	Alberto	Erazuriz	AERRAZUR	011.44.1344.429278	10-MAR-97	SA_MAN	12000	.3	100	80
148	Gerald	Cambrault	GCAMBRAU	011.44.1344.619268	15-OCT-99	SA_MAN	11000	.3	100	80
149	Beni	Zlotkey	EZLOTKEY	011.44.1344.429018	29-JAN-00	SA_MAN	10500	.2	100	80
150	Peter	Tucker	PTUCKER	011.44.1344.129268	30-JAN-97	SA_REP	10000	.3	145	80
151	David	Bernstein	DBERNSTE	011.44.1344.345268	24-MAR-97	SA_REP	9500	.25	145	80
152	Peter	Hall	PHALL	011.44.1344.478968	20-AUG-97	SA_REP	9000	.25	145	80
153	Christopher	Olsen	COLSEN	011.44.1344.498718	30-MAR-98	SA_REP	8000	.2	145	80
154	Nanette	Cambrault	NCAMBRAU	011.44.1344.987668	09-DEC-98	SA_REP	7500	.2	145	80
155	Oliver	Tuvault	OTUVAULT	011.44.1344.486508	23-NOV-99	SA_REP	7000	.15	145	80
EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
156	Janette	King	JKING	011.44.1345.429268	30-JAN-96	SA_REP	10000	.35	146	80
157	Patrick	Sully	PSULLY	011.44.1345.929268	04-MAR-96	SA_REP	9500	.35	146	80
158	Allan	McEwen	AMCEWEN	011.44.1345.829268	01-AUG-96	SA_REP	9000	.35	146	80
159	Lindsey	Smith	LSMITH	011.44.1345.729268	10-MAR-97	SA_REP	8000	.3	146	80
160	Louise	Doran	LDORAN	011.44.1345.629268	15-DEC-97	SA_REP	7500	.3	146	80
161	Sarath	Sewall	SSEWALL	011.44.1345.529268	03-NOV-98	SA_REP	7000	.25	146	80
162	Clara	Vishney	CVISHNEY	011.44.1346.129268	11-NOV-97	SA_REP	10500	.25	147	80
163	Danielle	Greene	DGREENE	011.44.1346.229268	19-MAR-99	SA_REP	9500	.15	147	80
164	Mattea	Marvins	MMARVINS	011.44.1346.329268	24-JAN-00	SA_REP	7200	.1	147	80
165	David	Lee	DLEE	011.44.1346.529268	23-FEB-00	SA_REP	6800	.1	147	80
166	Sundar	Ande	SANDE	011.44.1346.629268	24-MAR-00	SA_REP	6400	.1	147	80
167	Amit	Banda	ABANDA	011.44.1346.729268	21-APR-00	SA_REP	6200	.1	147	80
168	Lisa	Ozer	LOZER	011.44.1343.929268	11-MAR-97	SA_REP	11500	.25	148	80
169	Harrison	Bloom	HBLOOM	011.44.1343.829268	23-MAR-98	SA_REP	10000	.2	148	80

EMPLOYEES Table (continued)

EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
170	Taylor	Fox	TFOX	011.44.1343.729268	24-JAN-98	SA_REP	9600	.2	148	80
171	William	Smith	WSMITH	011.44.1343.629268	23-FEB-99	SA_REP	7400	.15	148	80
172	Elizabeth	Bates	EBATES	011.44.1343.529268	24-MAR-99	SA_REP	7300	.15	148	80
173	Sundita	Kumar	SKUMAR	011.44.1343.329268	21-APR-00	SA_REP	6100	.1	148	80
174	Elen	Abel	EABEL	011.44.1644.429267	11-MAY-96	SA_REP	11000	.3	149	80
175	Alyssa	Hutton	AHUTTON	011.44.1644.429266	19-MAR-97	SA_REP	8800	.25	149	80
176	Jonathon	Taylor	JTAYLOR	011.44.1644.429265	24-MAR-98	SA_REP	8600	.2	149	80
177	Jack	Livingston	JLIVINGS	011.44.1644.429264	23-APR-98	SA_REP	8400	.2	149	80
178	Kimberely	Grant	KGRANT	011.44.1644.429263	24-MAY-99	SA_REP	7000	.15	149	
179	Charles	Johnson	CJOHNSON	011.44.1644.429262	04-JAN-00	SA_REP	6200	.1	149	80
180	Winston	Taylor	WTAYLOR	650.507.9876	24-JAN-98	SH_CLERK	3200		120	50
181	Jean	Fleaur	JFLEAUR	650.507.9877	23-FEB-98	SH_CLERK	3100		120	50
182	Martha	Sullivan	MSULLIVA	650.507.9878	21-JUN-99	SH_CLERK	2500		120	50
183	Girard	Geoni	GGEONI	650.507.9879	03-FEB-00	SH_CLERK	2800		120	50
EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
184	Nandita	Sarchand	NSARCHAN	650.509.1876	27-JAN-96	SH_CLERK	4200		121	50
185	Alexis	Bull	ABULL	650.509.2876	20-FEB-97	SH_CLERK	4100		121	50
186	Julia	Dellinger	JDELLING	650.509.3876	24-JUN-98	SH_CLERK	3400		121	50
187	Anthony	Cabrio	ACABRIO	650.509.4876	07-FEB-99	SH_CLERK	3000		121	50
188	Kelly	Chung	KCHUNG	650.505.1876	14-JUN-97	SH_CLERK	3800		122	50
189	Jennifer	Dilly	JDILLY	650.505.2876	13-AUG-97	SH_CLERK	3600		122	50
190	Timothy	Gates	TGATES	650.505.3876	11-JUL-98	SH_CLERK	2900		122	50
191	Randall	Perkins	RPERKINS	650.505.4876	19-DEC-99	SH_CLERK	2500		122	50
192	Sarah	Bell	SBELL	650.501.1876	04-FEB-96	SH_CLERK	4000		123	50
193	Britney	Everett	BEVERETT	650.501.2876	03-MAR-97	SH_CLERK	3900		123	50
194	Samuel	McCain	SMCCAIN	650.501.3876	01-JUL-98	SH_CLERK	3200		123	50
195	Vance	Jones	VJONES	650.501.4876	17-MAR-99	SH_CLERK	2800		123	50
196	Alana	Walsh	AWALSH	650.507.9811	24-APR-98	SH_CLERK	3100		124	50
197	Kevin	Feeney	KFEENEY	650.507.9822	23-MAY-98	SH_CLERK	3000		124	50
EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALARY	comm	mgrid	deptid
198	Donald	OConnell	DOCONNEL	650.507.9833	21-JUN-99	SH_CLERK	2600		124	50
199	Douglas	Grant	DGRANT	650.507.9844	13-JAN-00	SH_CLERK	2600		124	50
200	Jennifer	Whalen	JWHALEN	515.123.4444	17-SEP-87	AD_ASST	4400		101	10
201	Michael	Hartstein	MHARTSTE	515.123.5555	17-FEB-96	MK_MAN	13000		100	20
202	Pat	Fay	PFAY	603.123.6666	17-AUG-97	MK_REP	6000		201	20
203	Susan	Mavris	SMAVRIS	515.123.7777	07-JUN-94	HR_REP	6500		101	40
204	Hermann	Baer	HBAER	515.123.8888	07-JUN-94	PR_REP	10000		101	70
205	Shelley	Higgins	SHIGGINS	515.123.8080	07-JUN-94	AC_MGR	12000		101	110
206	William	Gietz	WGIETZ	515.123.8181	07-JUN-94	AC_ACCOUNT	8300		205	110

107 rows selected.

JOB_HISTORY Table

```
DESCRIBE job_history
```

Name	Null?	Type
EMPLOYEE_ID	NOT NULL	NUMBER(6)
START_DATE	NOT NULL	DATE
END_DATE	NOT NULL	DATE
JOB_ID	NOT NULL	VARCHAR2(10)
DEPARTMENT_ID		NUMBER(4)

```
SELECT * FROM job_history;
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	START_DAT	END_DATE	JOB_ID	deptid
102	13-JAN-93	24-JUL-98	IT_PROG	60
101	21-SEP-89	27-OCT-93	AC_ACCOUNT	110
101	28-OCT-93	15-MAR-97	AC_MGR	110
201	17-FEB-96	19-DEC-99	MK_REP	20
114	24-MAR-98	31-DEC-99	ST_CLERK	50
122	01-JAN-99	31-DEC-99	ST_CLERK	50
200	17-SEP-87	17-JUN-93	AD_ASST	90
176	24-MAR-98	31-DEC-98	SA_REP	80
176	01-JAN-99	31-DEC-99	SA_MAN	80
200	01-JUL-94	31-DEC-98	AC_ACCOUNT	90

10 rows selected.

C

REF Cursors

ORACLE®

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursor Variables

- **Cursor variables are like C or Pascal pointers, which hold the memory location (address) of an item instead of the item itself**
- **In PL/SQL, a pointer is declared as `REF X`, where `REF` is short for `REFERENCE` and `X` stands for a class of objects**
- **A cursor variable has the data type `REF CURSOR`**
- **A cursor is static, but a cursor variable is dynamic**
- **Cursor variables give you more flexibility**

ORACLE

C-2

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Cursor Variables

Cursor variables are like C or Pascal pointers, which hold the memory location (address) of some item instead of the item itself. Thus, declaring a cursor variable creates a pointer, not an item. In PL/SQL, a pointer has the datatype `REF X`, where `REF` is short for `REFERENCE` and `X` stands for a class of objects. A cursor variable has datatype `REF CURSOR`.

Like a cursor, a cursor variable points to the current row in the result set of a multirow query. However, cursors differ from cursor variables the way constants differ from variables. A cursor is static, but a cursor variable is dynamic because it is not tied to a specific query. You can open a cursor variable for any type-compatible query. This gives you more flexibility.

Cursor variables are available to every PL/SQL client. For example, you can declare a cursor variable in a PL/SQL host environment such as an OCI or Pro*C program, and then pass it as an input host variable (bind variable) to PL/SQL. Moreover, application development tools such as Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports, which have a PL/SQL engine, can use cursor variables entirely on the client side. The Oracle server also has a PL/SQL engine. You can pass cursor variables back and forth between an application and server through remote procedure calls (RPCs).

Why Use Cursor Variables?

- **You can use cursor variables to pass query result sets between PL/SQL stored subprograms and various clients.**
- **PL/SQL can share a pointer to the query work area in which the result set is stored.**
- **You can pass the value of a cursor variable freely from one scope to another.**
- **You can reduce network traffic by having a PL/SQL block open (or close) several host cursor variables in a single round trip.**

ORACLE

C-3

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Why Use Cursor Variables?

You use cursor variables to pass query result sets between PL/SQL stored subprograms and various clients. Neither PL/SQL nor any of its clients owns a result set; they simply share a pointer to the query work area in which the result set is stored. For example, an OCI client, an Oracle Forms application, and the Oracle server can all refer to the same work area.

A query work area remains accessible as long as any cursor variable points to it. Therefore, you can pass the value of a cursor variable freely from one scope to another. For example, if you pass a host cursor variable to a PL/SQL block that is embedded in a Pro*C program, the work area to which the cursor variable points remains accessible after the block completes.

If you have a PL/SQL engine on the client side, calls from client to server impose no restrictions. For example, you can declare a cursor variable on the client side, open and fetch from it on the server side, then continue to fetch from it back on the client side. Also, you can reduce network traffic by having a PL/SQL block open (or close) several host cursor variables in a single round trip.

A cursor variable holds a reference to the cursor work area in the PGA instead of addressing it with a static name. Because you address this area by a reference, you gain the flexibility of a variable.

Defining REF CURSOR Types

- **Define a REF CURSOR type.**

```
Define a REF CURSOR type
TYPE ref_type_name IS REF CURSOR [RETURN return_type];
```

- **Declare a cursor variable of that type.**

```
ref_cv ref_type_name;
```

- **Example:**

```
DECLARE
TYPE DeptCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN
departments%ROWTYPE;
dept_cv DeptCurTyp;
```

ORACLE

C-4

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Defining REF CURSOR Types

To define a REF CURSOR, you perform two steps. First, you define a REF CURSOR type, and then you declare cursor variables of that type. You can define REF CURSOR types in any PL/SQL block, subprogram, or package using the following syntax:

```
TYPE ref_type_name IS REF CURSOR [RETURN return_type];
```

in which:

`ref_type_name` is a type specifier used in subsequent declarations of cursor variables

`return_type` represents a record or a row in a database table

In the following example, you specify a return type that represents a row in the database table DEPARTMENT.

REF CURSOR types can be strong (restrictive) or weak (nonrestrictive). As the next example shows, a strong REF CURSOR type definition specifies a return type, but a weak definition does not:

```
DECLARE
```

```
TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN employees%ROWTYPE;  --
strong
```

```
TYPE GenericCurTyp IS REF CURSOR;  -- weak
```

Defining REF CURSOR Types (continued)

Strong REF CURSOR types are less error prone because the PL/SQL compiler lets you associate a strongly typed cursor variable only with type-compatible queries. However, weak REF CURSOR types are more flexible because the compiler lets you associate a weakly typed cursor variable with any query.

Declaring Cursor Variables

After you define a REF CURSOR type, you can declare cursor variables of that type in any PL/SQL block or subprogram. In the following example, you declare the cursor variable DEPT_CV:

```
DECLARE
    TYPE DeptCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN departments%ROWTYPE;
    dept_cv DeptCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
```

Note: You cannot declare cursor variables in a package. Unlike packaged variables, cursor variables do not have persistent states. Remember, declaring a cursor variable creates a pointer, not an item. Cursor variables cannot be saved in the database; they follow the usual scoping and instantiation rules.

In the RETURN clause of a REF CURSOR type definition, you can use %ROWTYPE to specify a record type that represents a row returned by a strongly (not weakly) typed cursor variable, as follows:

```
DECLARE
    TYPE TmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN employees%ROWTYPE;
    tmp_cv TmpCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
    TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN tmp_cv%ROWTYPE;
    emp_cv EmpCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
```

Likewise, you can use %TYPE to provide the datatype of a record variable, as the following example shows:

```
DECLARE
    dept_rec departments%ROWTYPE; -- declare record variable
    TYPE DeptCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN dept_rec%TYPE;
    dept_cv DeptCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
```

In the final example, you specify a user-defined RECORD type in the RETURN clause:

```
DECLARE
    TYPE EmpRecTyp IS RECORD (
        empno NUMBER(4),
        ename VARCHAR2(10),
        sal    NUMBER(7,2));
    TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN EmpRecTyp;
    emp_cv EmpCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
```

Cursor Variables As Parameters

You can declare cursor variables as the formal parameters of functions and procedures. In the following example, you define the REF CURSOR type EmpCurTyp, and then declare a cursor variable of that type as the formal parameter of a procedure:

```
DECLARE
    TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR RETURN emp%ROWTYPE;
    PROCEDURE open_emp_cv (emp_cv IN OUT EmpCurTyp) IS ...
```

Using the OPEN-FOR, FETCH, and CLOSE Statements

- The **OPEN-FOR** statement associates a cursor variable with a multirow query, executes the query, identifies the result set, and positions the cursor to point to the first row of the result set.
- The **FETCH** statement returns a row from the result set of a multirow query, assigns the values of select-list items to corresponding variables or fields in the **INTO** clause, increments the count kept by **%ROWCOUNT**, and advances the cursor to the next row.
- The **CLOSE** statement disables a cursor variable.

ORACLE

C-6

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

Using the OPEN-FOR, FETCH, and CLOSE Statements

You use three statements to process a dynamic multirow query: **OPEN-FOR**, **FETCH**, and **CLOSE**. First, you **OPEN** a cursor variable **FOR** a multirow query. Then, you **FETCH** rows from the result set one at a time. When all the rows are processed, you **CLOSE** the cursor variable.

Opening the Cursor Variable

The **OPEN-FOR** statement associates a cursor variable with a multirow query, executes the query, identifies the result set, positions the cursor to point to the first row of the results set, then sets the rows-processed count kept by **%ROWCOUNT** to zero. Unlike the static form of **OPEN-FOR**, the dynamic form has an optional **USING** clause. At run time, bind arguments in the **USING** clause replace corresponding placeholders in the dynamic **SELECT** statement. The syntax is:

```
OPEN {cursor_variable | :host_cursor_variable} FOR dynamic_string  
    [USING bind_argument[, bind_argument]...];
```

where **CURSOR_VARIABLE** is a weakly typed cursor variable (one without a return type), **HOST_CURSOR_VARIABLE** is a cursor variable declared in a PL/SQL host environment such as an OCI program, and **dynamic_string** is a string expression that represents a multirow query.

Using the OPEN-FOR, FETCH, and CLOSE Statements (continued)

In the following example, the syntax declares a cursor variable, and then associates it with a dynamic SELECT statement that returns rows from the EMPLOYEES table:

```
DECLARE
  TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR; -- define weak REF CURSOR type
  emp_cv   EmpCurTyp; -- declare cursor variable
  my_ename VARCHAR2(15);
  my_sal   NUMBER := 1000;
BEGIN
  OPEN emp_cv FOR -- open cursor variable
    'SELECT last_name, salary FROM employees WHERE salary > :s'
    USING my_sal;
  ...
END;
```

Any bind arguments in the query are evaluated only when the cursor variable is opened. Thus, to fetch rows from the cursor using different bind values, you must reopen the cursor variable with the bind arguments set to their new values.

Fetching from the Cursor Variable

The FETCH statement returns a row from the result set of a multirow query, assigns the values of select-list items to corresponding variables or fields in the INTO clause, increments the count kept by %ROWCOUNT, and advances the cursor to the next row. Use the following syntax:

```
FETCH {cursor_variable | :host_cursor_variable}
  INTO {define_variable[, define_variable]... | record};
```

Continuing the example, fetch rows from cursor variable EMP_CV into define variables MY_ENAME and MY_SAL:

```
LOOP
  FETCH emp_cv INTO my_ename, my_sal; -- fetch next row
  EXIT WHEN emp_cv%NOTFOUND; -- exit loop when last row is fetched
  -- process row
END LOOP;
```

For each column value returned by the query associated with the cursor variable, there must be a corresponding, type-compatible variable or field in the INTO clause. You can use a different INTO clause on separate fetches with the same cursor variable. Each fetch retrieves another row from the same result set. If you try to fetch from a closed or never-opened cursor variable, PL/SQL raises the predefined exception INVALID_CURSOR.

Closing the Cursor Variable

The CLOSE statement disables a cursor variable. After that, the associated result set is undefined. Use the following syntax:

```
CLOSE {cursor_variable | :host_cursor_variable};
```

In this example, when the last row is processed, close cursor variable EMP_CV:

```
LOOP
  FETCH emp_cv INTO my_ename, my_sal;
  EXIT WHEN emp_cv%NOTFOUND;
  -- process row
END LOOP;
CLOSE emp_cv; -- close cursor variable
```

If you try to close an already-closed or never-opened cursor variable, PL/SQL raises INVALID_CURSOR.

An Example of Fetching

```
DECLARE
    TYPE EmpCurTyp IS REF CURSOR;
    emp_cv    EmpCurTyp;
    emp_rec   employees%ROWTYPE;
    sql_stmt  VARCHAR2(200);
    my_job    VARCHAR2(10) := 'ST_CLERK';
BEGIN
    sql_stmt := 'SELECT * FROM employees
                WHERE job_id = :j';
    OPEN emp_cv FOR sql_stmt USING my_job;
    LOOP
        FETCH emp_cv INTO emp_rec;
        EXIT WHEN emp_cv%NOTFOUND;
        -- process record
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE emp_cv;
END;
/
```

ORACLE

C-8

Copyright © Oracle Corporation, 2001. All rights reserved.

An Example of Fetching

The example in the preceding slide shows that you can fetch rows from the result set of a dynamic multirow query into a record. First you must define a REF CURSOR type, EmpCurTyp. Next you define a cursor variable emp_cv, of the type EmpCurTyp. In the executable section of the PL/SQL block, the OPEN-FOR statement associates the cursor variable EMP_CV with the multirow query, sql_stmt. The FETCH statement returns a row from the result set of a multirow query and assigns the values of select-list items to EMP_REC in the INTO clause. When the last row is processed, close the cursor variable EMP_CV.

Index

%

%ISOPEN 6-14

%NOTFOUND 6-15

%TYPE 1-23

A

attribute 1-23

Anonymous blocks 1-5

B

basic loop 4-19

Boolean expressions 1-25

Bind variable 1-10

BFILE 1-27

BLOB 1-27

C

clause 3-6,7-5

control structures 4-3

clause 7-7

collections 1-26

comments 2-7

composite data types, 1-9

conversion 2-10

cursor 3-18,6-20

cursor attributes 6-13

CASE 4-3

CLOB 1-27

CLOSE 6-12

COMMIT 3-21

D

declaration section 1-12

declare an explicit cursor 6-7

Delimiters 2-4

DBMS_OUTPUT 1-32

DEFAULT 1-15

E

exception 8-3

exception handler 8-6

expressions 4-3

explicit cursors 6-4

external large object 15-8

ELSIF 4-5

END IF 4-5

EXIT 4-19

F

FETCH 6-10

FOR 4-23

FOR UPDATE 7-5

I

Identifiers 2-5

implicit cursor 3-18

INSERT 3-11

INT 3-6

L

locator 1-9

loop 4-21,4-3

LOB 1-27

N

naming convention 3-16

NCHAR 1-27

NCLOB 1-27

nest loops 4-27

nested blocks 2-12

non-predefined Oracle server error 8-12

O

OPEN 6-9

OTHER 8-6

P

parameter in the cursor declaration 7-3

pointer 1-9

predefined Oracle Server error 8-8

programming guidelines 2-19

propagate the exception 8-18

PRAGMA 8-12

PRINT 1-30

R

reference host variables 1-31

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR 8-20

ROLLBACK 3-21

S

statement 4-3

SAVEPOINT 3-21

Scalar data types 1-9

Subprograms 1-5

subquery 7-9

SELECT 3-4

SQLCODE 8-14

SQLERR 8-14

T

TO_DATE 1-15

U

use 15-13

user-defined exception 8-17

UPDATE 3-12

V

variables 1-7

W

WHEN OTHER 8-15

WHERE CURRENT OF 7-7

WHILE 4-21