

ALTER

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

Syntax

ALTER TABLE "table_name" [Specify Actions];

Following actions can be performed

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



COLUMN – ADD & DROP

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

Syntax

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

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



COLUMN – MODIFY & RENAME

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

Syntax

```
ALTER TABLE "table_name"
```

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

```
GO
```

RENAME can be done using stored procedure only

```
EXEC sp_RENAME 'table_name. column_name' , 'New_Name', 'COLUMN'
```

```
GO
```



CONSTRAINT – ADD & DROP

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

Syntax

1. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ALTER COLUMN "column_name" DATA TYPE NOT NULL; GO
2. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ALTER COLUMN "column_name" DATA TYPE; GO
3. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ADD CONSTRAINT "column_name" CHECK ("column_name">=100); GO
4. ALTER TABLE "table_name" ADD PRIMARY KEY ("column_name"); GO

