



Relational Database Concepts

HOW TO SPOOL SQL*PLUS OUTPUT TO A FILE

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Objectives

- Learn how to capture the output of sql statements to a file.



What Is The Spool Command

- The SPOOL command causes SQL*Plus to write the results to a file on the operating system.
- This means that the output of the SQL statements you run will be captured or printed to a file for your review.
- It records all of the screen displays that would normally run and put them in in a file.
- It is useful to capture the screen output or displays to verify that everything runs correctly or when you want to generate SQL from the data dictionary.
- Once spool is set, SQL*Plus will continue to spool the output until the command SPOOL OFF is executed.
- Note that the file cannot be seen or used until the SPOOL OFF command is executed.



Spool Syntax

[SPOOL] [file_name.ext] [CRE[ATE] | REP[LACE] | APP[END]] | OFF | OUT]

- file_name.ext - Represents the name of the file to which you wish to spool.
- **SPOOL** followed by file_name begins spooling displayed output to the named file.
- If you do not specify an extension, SPOOL uses a default extension (LST or LIS on most systems).
- If you spool out a file that does not exist, SQL*Plus creates a new file and replaces an existing file if the file name already exists.



Spool Options

- **CREATE** -Creates a new file with the name specified.
- **REPLACE** -Replaces the contents of an existing file. If the file does not exist, creates the file.
- **APPEND** - Adds the contents of the SQL*Plus output at the end of an existing file.
- **OFF** - Stops spooling.
- **SPOOL** with no options, lists the current spooling status.



Spool Options Example

- **SPOOL DEPT CREATE** - To record your output in the new file DEPT using the default file extension.
- **SPOOL DEPT APPEND** - To append your output to the existing file DEPT.
- **SPOOL DEPT REPLACE** - To record your output to the file DEPT AND overwriting the existing content.
- **SPOOL OFF** - To stop spooling and create the file.



Spool Example 1

Executing the spool command from the SQL*Plus command line:

```
SQL> spool employees.log  
SQL> desc employees  
SQL> select * from employees;  
spool off;
```



Spool Example 2

Executing the spool command from a script:

```
SQL> @C:\Users\Imgarde\Documents\dba_scripts\hr.sql
```

Script contents:

```
spool
```

```
C:\Users\Imgarde\Documents\dba_scripts\imgard_create\hr.log
```

```
select * from departments;
```

```
select * from employees;
```

```
select * from locations;
```

```
select * from countries;
```

```
select * from regions;
```

```
select * from jobs;
```

```
select * from job_history;
```

```
spool off;
```