

Chapter 25: ALTER TABLE

ALTER command in SQL is used to modify column/constraint in a table

Section 25.1: Add Column(s)

```
ALTER TABLE Employees
ADD StartingDate date NOT NULL DEFAULT GetDate(),
DateOfBirth date NULL
```

The above statement would add columns named StartingDate which cannot be NULL with default value as current date and DateOfBirth which can be NULL in Employees table.

Section 25.2: Drop Column

```
ALTER TABLE Employees
DROP COLUMN salary;
```

This will not only delete information from that column, but will drop the column salary from table employees(the column will no more exist).

Section 25.3: Add Primary Key

```
ALTER TABLE EMPLOYEES ADD pk_EmployeeID PRIMARY KEY (ID)
```

This will add a Primary key to the table Employees on the field ID. Including more than one column name in the parentheses along with ID will create a Composite Primary Key. When adding more than one column, the column names must be separated by commas.

```
ALTER TABLE EMPLOYEES ADD pk_EmployeeID PRIMARY KEY (ID, FName)
```

Section 25.4: Alter Column

```
ALTER TABLE Employees
ALTER COLUMN StartingDate DATETIME NOT NULL DEFAULT (GETDATE())
```

This query will alter the column datatype of StartingDate and change it from simple date to datetime and set default to current date.

Section 25.5: Drop Constraint

```
ALTER TABLE Employees
DROP CONSTRAINT DefaultSalary
```

This Drops a constraint called DefaultSalary from the employees table definition.

Note: Ensure that constraints of the column are dropped before dropping a column.
