

SQL for business reports: monthly revenue, top customers and quiet accounts

The three modules of the free SQL for Business Reports Jump Start, practised there on real DB Fiddle screens.

The building blocks

SELECT

`SELECT *` FROM orders; every column, every row.

WHERE

`WHERE order_date >= '2026-09-01'` keeps matching rows.

Totals

`COUNT(*)` counts rows, `SUM(amount)` adds a column, **AS** names it.

Sort

`ORDER BY revenue DESC` biggest first; `LIMIT 3` keeps three rows.

Revenue by month

1. `SELECT DATE_FORMAT(order_date, '%Y-%m') AS month,`
2. `SUM(amount) AS revenue FROM orders`
3. `GROUP BY month ORDER BY month;`

Key accounts (\$3,000 or more)

1. `SELECT customer, COUNT(*) AS orders, SUM(amount) AS revenue`
2. `FROM orders GROUP BY customer`
3. `HAVING SUM(amount) >= 3000 ORDER BY revenue DESC;`

Customers gone quiet

1. `SELECT c.name, c.manager, MAX(o.order_date) AS last_order`
2. `FROM customers c LEFT JOIN orders o ON o.customer = c.name`
3. `GROUP BY c.name, c.manager`
4. `HAVING MAX(o.order_date) < '2026-09-01' OR MAX(o.order_date) IS NULL;`

Good habits

- Line order: SELECT, FROM, WHERE, GROUP BY, HAVING, ORDER BY, LIMIT.
- WHERE filters rows; HAVING filters totals after GROUP BY.
- "Who has not ..." questions need a LEFT JOIN and IS NULL.
- Ask for a read-only login at work: reports only need SELECT.

Remember: Ask the database, not a pasted copy: the same query gives next month's report with no copying and no missed rows.

Practice it free: SQL: Build a Monthly Revenue Report from an Orders Table at learn.ynteractive.com/modules/sql-monthly-revenue-report. This sheet: learn.ynteractive.com/content/cheat-sheets/sql-business-reports. Lakeside Office Supply is a made-up business from the lesson. By Robert Breen, October 24, 2026.