

# MySQL Database: How do I connect to my MySQL database?

Before you can use MySQL at all, you need to [create a database](#) for yourself on your Control Panel. Once you have created a database, there are a few ways you can connect to it:

- At a [shell prompt](#) you type all one 1 single line:

```
mysql -u DBUSERNAME -h DBSERVER -p DBNAME
```

with the following replacements of the bolded terms above:

- Replace DBSERVER with [the correct database servername for your site](#).
- Replace DBUSERNAME with your own mysql username.
- Replace DBNAME with your own mysql databasename.

Example:

```
mysql -u joe -h db.joesmith.com -p joeydb
```

If you don't know your MySQL Username or MySQL Databasename, go [here](#).

You will then be prompted for your MySQL password. If you don't know what that is, go [here](#) to set it to something that you will remember.

If you use preferences set in a [.my.cnf file](#), the connection command would be much shorter, just:

```
mysql
```

Once at the MySQL prompt, you can then issue SQL commands directly to the MySQL server. For correct SQL syntax, see the [MySQL Manual](#).

- To connect from a PHP script, just put this in your file:

```
mysql_connect( "DBSERVER" , "DBUSERNAME" , "DBPASSWORD" );  
mysql_select_db( "DBNAME" );  
?>
```

using the same substitutions for the bold terms as above, plus substituting DBPASSWORD with your own mysql password.

Example:

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```
mysql_connect("db2.modwest.com", "joe", "secret");  
  
mysql_select_db("joeydb");
```

- To connect from a perl script, put this in your file:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl  
use DBI;  
  
$database = "DBNAME";  
$hostname = "DBSERVER";  
$port = "3306";  
$username = "DBUSERNAME";  
$password = 'DBPASSWORD';  
  
$dsn = "DBI:mysql:database=$database;host=$hostname;port=$port";  
  
$dbh = DBI->connect($dsn, $username, $password) or die("Could not  
connect!");  
  
$sql = "SELECT * FROM mytable";  
  
$sth = $dbh->prepare($sql);  
$sth->execute;  
  
while(($column1, $column2) = $sth->fetchrow_array)  
{  
print "C1 = $column1, C2 = $column2n";  
}  
  
$dbh->disconnect;
```

where DBNAME, DBUSERNAME, and DBPASSWORD are your database name, database username and database password, and where DBSERVER is your [database server](#).

- For connections from your own computer or from outside our network, [see this FAQ](#)

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