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:

```perl
#!/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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