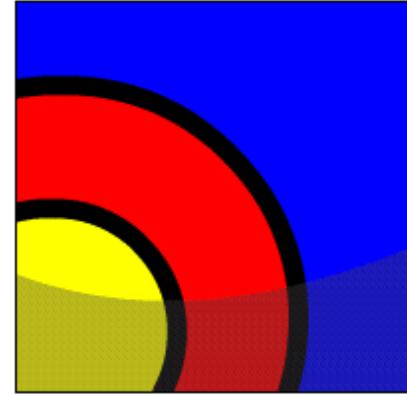


Iterative Control: Nested Loops

What Will I Learn?

In this lesson, you will learn to:

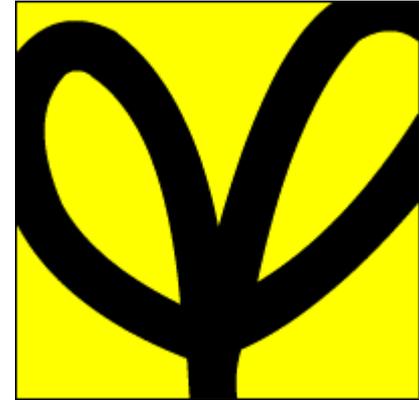
- Construct and execute PL/SQL using nested loops
- Label loops and use the labels in EXIT statements
- Evaluate a nested loop construct and identify the exit point





Why Learn It?

You've learned about looping constructs in PL/SQL. This lesson discusses how you can nest loops to multiple levels. You can nest `FOR`, `WHILE`, and basic loops within one another.



Tell Me/Show Me



Nested Loops

In PL/SQL, you can nest loops to multiple levels. You can nest FOR, WHILE, and basic loops within one another.

Consider the following example:

```
BEGIN
  FOR v_outerloop IN 1..3 LOOP
    FOR v_innerloop IN REVERSE 1..5 LOOP
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Outer loop is: ' || v_outerloop ||
                           ' and inner loop is: ' || v_innerloop);
    END LOOP;
  END LOOP;
END;
```



Tell Me/Show Me

Nested Loops

This example contains EXIT conditions in nested basic loops.

```
DECLARE
  v_outer_done   CHAR(3) := 'NO';
  v_inner_done   CHAR(3) := 'NO';
BEGIN
  LOOP           -- outer loop
    ...
    LOOP       -- inner loop
      ...
      ...      -- step A
      EXIT WHEN v_inner_done = 'YES';
      ...
    END LOOP;
    ...
    EXIT WHEN v_outer_done = 'YES';
    ...
  END LOOP;
END;
```

What if you want to exit from the outer loop at step A?



Tell Me/Show Me

Use labels to distinguish between the loops:

```
DECLARE
    ...
BEGIN
    <<outer_loop>>
    LOOP                -- outer loop
        ...
        <<inner_loop>>
        LOOP            -- inner loop
            EXIT outer_loop WHEN ... -- Exits both loops
            EXIT WHEN v_inner_done = 'YES';
            ...
        END LOOP;
        ...
        EXIT WHEN v_outer_done = 'YES';
        ...
    END LOOP;
END;
```



Tell Me/Show Me

Loop Labels

Loop label names follow the same rules as other identifiers. A label is placed before a statement, either on the same line or on a separate line. In `FOR` or `WHILE` loops, place the label before `FOR` or `WHILE` within label delimiters (`<<label>>`). If the loop is labeled, the label name can optionally be included after the `END LOOP` statement for clarity.



Tell Me/Show Me

Labels

Label basic loops by placing the label before the word `LOOP` within label delimiters (`<<label>>`).

```
DECLARE
  v_outerloop PLS_INTEGER :=0;
  v_innerloop PLS_INTEGER :=5;
BEGIN
  <<Outer_loop>>
  LOOP
    v_outerloop := v_outerloop + 1;
    v_innerloop := 5;
    EXIT WHEN v_outerloop > 3;
    <<Inner_loop>>
    LOOP
      DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Outer loop is: ' || v_outerloop ||
        ' and inner loop is: ' || v_innerloop);
      v_innerloop := v_innerloop - 1;
      EXIT WHEN v_innerloop =0;
    END LOOP Inner_loop;
  END LOOP Outer_loop;
END;
```



Tell Me/Show Me

Nested Loops and Labels

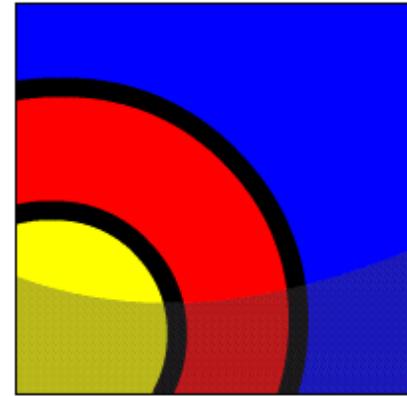
In this example, there are two loops. The outer loop is identified by the label <<Outer_Loop>>, and the inner loop is identified by the label <<Inner_Loop>>.

```
...BEGIN
  <<Outer_loop>>
  LOOP
    v_counter := v_counter+1;
    EXIT WHEN v_counter>10;
    <<Inner_loop>>
    LOOP
      ...
      EXIT Outer_loop WHEN v_total_done = 'YES';
      -- Leave both loops
      EXIT WHEN v_inner_done = 'YES';
      -- Leave inner loop only
      ...
    END LOOP Inner_loop;
    ...
  END LOOP Outer_loop;
END;
```

Summary

In this lesson, you learned to:

- Construct and execute PL/SQL using nested loops
- Label loops and use the labels in EXIT statements
- Evaluate a nested loop construct and identify the exit point



Try It/Solve It

The exercises in this lesson cover the following topics:

- Constructing and executing PL/SQL using nested loops
- Labeling loops and using the labels in EXIT statements
- Evaluating a nested loop construct and identifying the exit point

