

8.3.2. Executing SQL Statements from a Text File

The **mysql** client typically is used interactively, like this:

```
shell> mysql db_name
```

However, it's also possible to put your SQL statements in a file and then tell **mysql** to read its input from that file. To do so, create a text file `text_file` that contains the statements you wish to execute. Then invoke **mysql** as shown here:

```
shell> mysql db_name < text_file
```

You can also start your text file with a `USE db_name` statement. In this case, it is unnecessary to specify the database name on the command line:

```
shell> mysql < text_file
```

If you are running **mysql**, you can execute an SQL script file using the `source` or `\.` command:

```
mysql> source filename
mysql> \. filename
```

Sometimes you may want your script to display progress information to the user; for this you can insert some lines like

```
SELECT '<info_to_display>' AS ' ';
```

which outputs `<info_to_display>`.

For more information about batch mode, see [Section 3.5, "Using **mysql** in Batch Mode"](#).