

13.2.8. DROP TABLE Syntax

```
DROP [TEMPORARY] TABLE [IF EXISTS]
    tbl_name [, tbl_name] ...
    [RESTRICT | CASCADE]
```

`DROP TABLE` removes one or more tables. You must have the `DROP` privilege for each table. All table data and the table definition are *removed*, so *be careful* with this statement!

In MySQL 3.22 or later, you can use the keywords `IF EXISTS` to prevent an error from occurring for tables that don't exist. As of MySQL 4.1, a `NOTE` is generated for each non-existent table when using `IF EXISTS`. See [Section 13.5.4.19, "SHOW WARNINGS Syntax"](#).

`RESTRICT` and `CASCADE` are allowed to make porting easier. For the moment, they do nothing.

Note: `DROP TABLE` automatically commits the current active transaction, unless you are using MySQL 4.1 or higher and the `TEMPORARY` keyword.

The `TEMPORARY` keyword is ignored in MySQL 4.0. As of 4.1, it has the following effect:

- The statement drops only `TEMPORARY` tables.
- The statement doesn't end a running transaction.
- No access rights are checked. (A `TEMPORARY` table is visible only to the client that created it, so no check is necessary.)

Using `TEMPORARY` is a good way to ensure that you don't accidentally drop a non-`TEMPORARY` table.