



Unique keys are different from Primary Keys in that in theory a table can have as many Unique keys as necessary, however, note that the more keys a table has the slower certain functions will be against the table.

This section will deal with both Unique and 'normal' indexes, Unique indexes will force the User to enter a different value in the column for each record, the 'normal' index will allow duplicate values and are used primarily to make record selection quicker, for example, a post town regularly used in a where clause.

Database Objects – Unique Key Creation



Here the User is creating a Unique and normal index at the same time as the creation of the table ...

```
create table cheques_created  
(cheque_number int(20) not null unique key  
,date_issued date not null  
,amount double(7,2) default 100  
,payee text(50) null comment 'The person receiving the money')
```

```
create table cheques_created  
(cheque_number int(20) not null auto_increment  
,date_issued date not null  
,amount double(7,2) default 100  
,payee text(50) null comment 'The person receiving the money'  
,unique key cc_pk (cheque_number))
```



Indexes can be created separate from the table creation ...

```
create unique index cc_uk  
on cheques_created(cheque_number)
```

```
create index cc_ind  
on cheques_created(cheque_number)
```

```
alter table cheques_created add unique index (cheque_number)
```

```
alter table cheques_created add index (cheque_number)
```

To drop a Unique key use the following ...

```
alter table cheques_created drop index cc_uk
```