



Associate Arrays were previously called Index By Tables. Creating a PL/SQL table will allow the Developer to store rows of data in the process without the need to return to the Database, in addition, rows can be compared with each other as well as their data manipulated before updating the underlying tables.

An Associate Array can consist of one simple datatype or be defined as a type of record. Rows in a PL/SQL table work like an array in the sense that a particular row can be referenced by its index ...

```
<plsql_table>(10) := '<value>';
```



Unlike an array however the table is one dimensional and stores in rows rather than cells ..

Rows in a PL/SQL table do not have to be contiguous, empty rows do not cause storage problems so therefore the Developer can use keys based on the data rather than sequences.

Defining Associate Arrays takes two different stages, firstly the Developer must create the Object as a datatype, secondly this datatype needs to be used by a local variable.