

# HOW TO INSERT VALUES TO IDENTITY COLUMN IN SQL SERVER

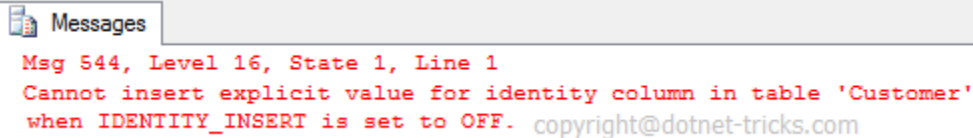
Identity field is usually used as a primary key. When you insert a new record into your table, this field automatically assign an incremented value from the previous entry. Usually, you can't insert your own value to this field.

In this article, I am going to expose the tips for inserting your own value to this field. It is simple and easy. Consider you have the following Customer table.

```
1. CREATE TABLE Customer
2. (
3. ID int IDENTITY,
4. Name varchar(100),
5. Address varchar(200)
6. )
```

Now, I am trying to insert a record into Customer table with identity field like as then I will get the error message as shown below.

```
1. INSERT INTO Customer (ID,Name,Address) VALUES (1, 'Shakham', 'Delhi')
```



The screenshot shows a 'Messages' window with the following text: 'Msg 544, Level 16, State 1, Line 1 Cannot insert explicit value for identity column in table 'Customer' when IDENTITY\_INSERT is set to OFF. copyright@dotnet-tricks.com'. The error message is displayed in red text.

## Allow insert into identity field

You can allow insert to the identity field by setting IDENTITY\_INSERT ON for a particular table as shown:

```
1. SET IDENTITY_INSERT Customer ON
```

## Disallow insert into identity field

You can also disallow insert to the identity field by setting IDENTITY\_INSERT OFF for a particular table as shown:

```
1. SET IDENTITY_INSERT Customer OFF
```

## Insert Value to Identity field

Now, lets see how to insert our own values to identity field ID with in the Customer table.

```
1. SET IDENTITY_INSERT Customer ON
2.
3. INSERT INTO Customer (ID,Name,Address) VALUES (3, 'Rahul', 'Noida')
4. INSERT INTO Customer (ID,Name,Address) VALUES (4, 'Rahul', 'Noida')
5.
6. SET IDENTITY_INSERT Customer OFF
7.
8. INSERT INTO Customer (Name,Address) VALUES ('Rita', 'Noida')
```

After Inserting your own value to identity field don't forget to set IDENTITY\_INSERT OFF.

	ID	Name	Address
1	1	Shakham	Delhi
2	3	Rahul	Noida
3	4	Rahul	Noida
4	5	Rita	Noida

## Note

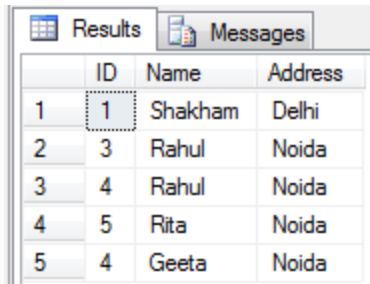
1. Usually, we use this trick when we have deleted some rows from the table and we want the data in a sequence.
2. After Inserting your own value to identity field don't forget to set IDENTITY\_INSERT OFF

## Reseed the Identity field

You can also reseed the identity field value. By doing so identity field values will start with a new defined value.

Suppose you want to reseed the Customer table ID field from 3 then the new records will be inserted with ID 4,5,6..and so on.

```
1. --Reseeding the identity
2. DBCC checkident (Customer, RESEED, 3)
3.
4. INSERT INTO Customer (Name,Address) VALUES ('Geeta', 'Noida')
```



	ID	Name	Address
1	1	Shakham	Delhi
2	3	Rahul	Noida
3	4	Rahul	Noida
4	5	Rita	Noida
5	4	Geeta	Noida

Source : <http://www.dotnet-tricks.com/Tutorial/sqlserver/4UXH230213-How-to-insert-values-to-identity-column-in-SQL-Server.html>