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')
```

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, let's 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.

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 record s 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')
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shakham</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rahul</td>
<td>Noida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rahul</td>
<td>Noida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>Noida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Geeta</td>
<td>Noida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>