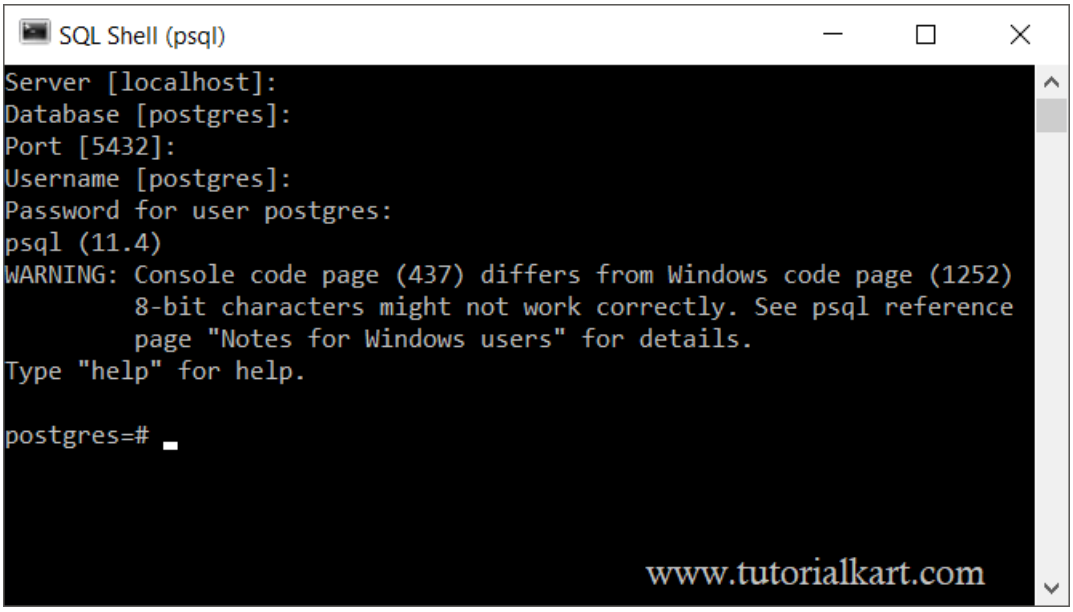
PostgreSQL – psql Shell Commands

PostgreSQL Shell Commands

In this tutorial, we will learn to use some of the psql commands to do PostgreSQL operations in the psql shell.

Once we start the psql shell, we will be asked to provide details like server, database, port, username and password. You may choose to go with the defaults (password is mandatory though).



psql Comands

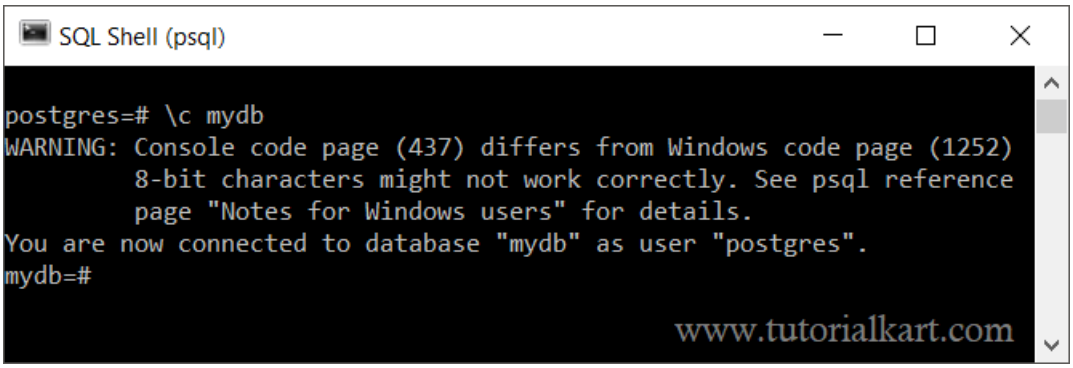
Connect to Database

```
\c databasename
```

\c databasename

This psql command is used to connect to a specific database. You have to provide the database name after \c. This is like use command in sql shells. Once connected, we can run SQL queries on the database.

In the following example, we connected to a database named `mydb`.



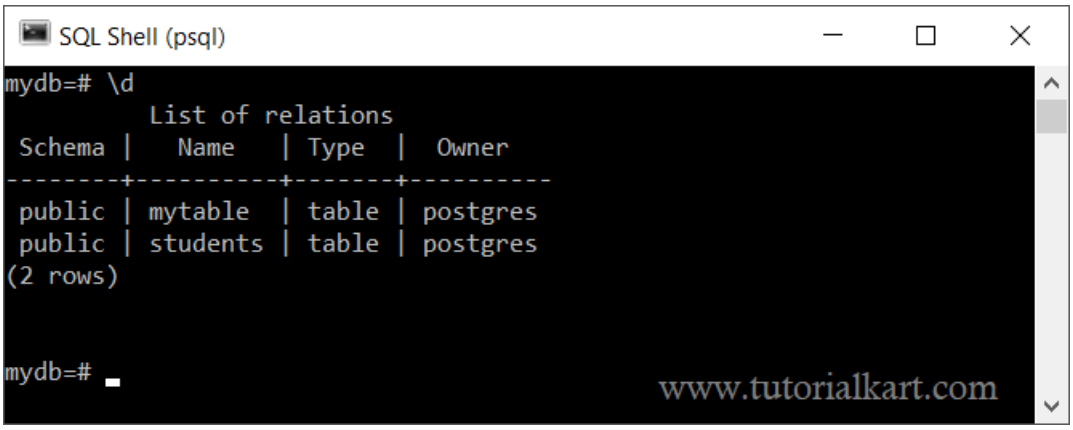
Describe Available Relations

```
\d
```

\d

This psql command is used to describe available relations in the database. Tables are an example for relations.

In the following example, we have run `\d` command on `mydb` database. It listed all the available relations. For each relation, we get four properties: `Schema` in which the relation is, `Name` of the relation, `Type` of relation, and the `Owner` for that relation.



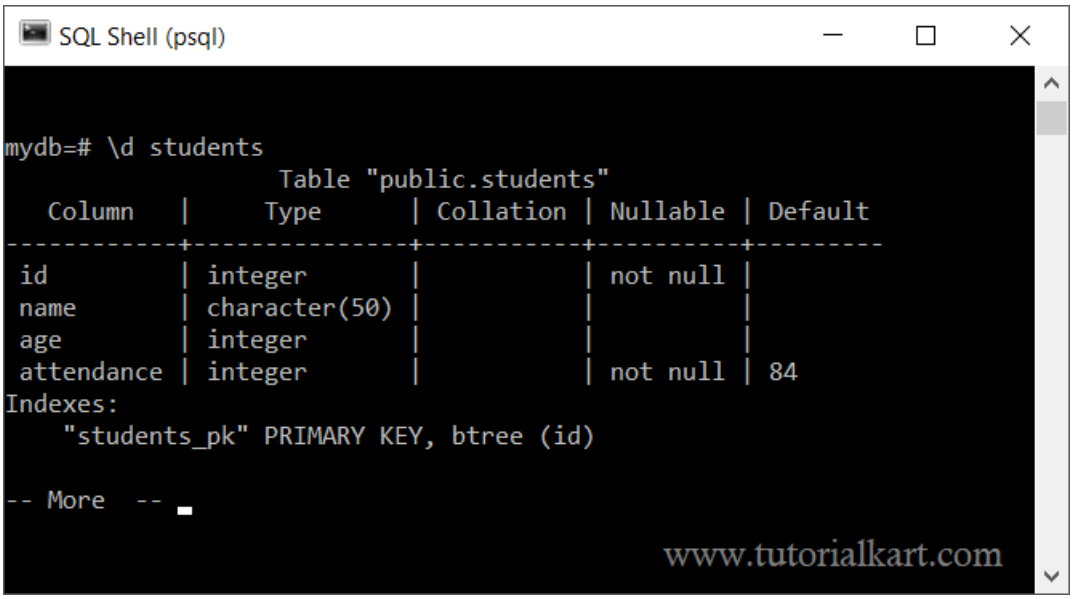
Describe Relation

```
\d relationname
```

\d relationname

While `\d` command described the list of all available relations in a database, this psql command describes about a specific relation. We have to provide the relation name after `\d`.

In the following example, we have run this psql command on a table.

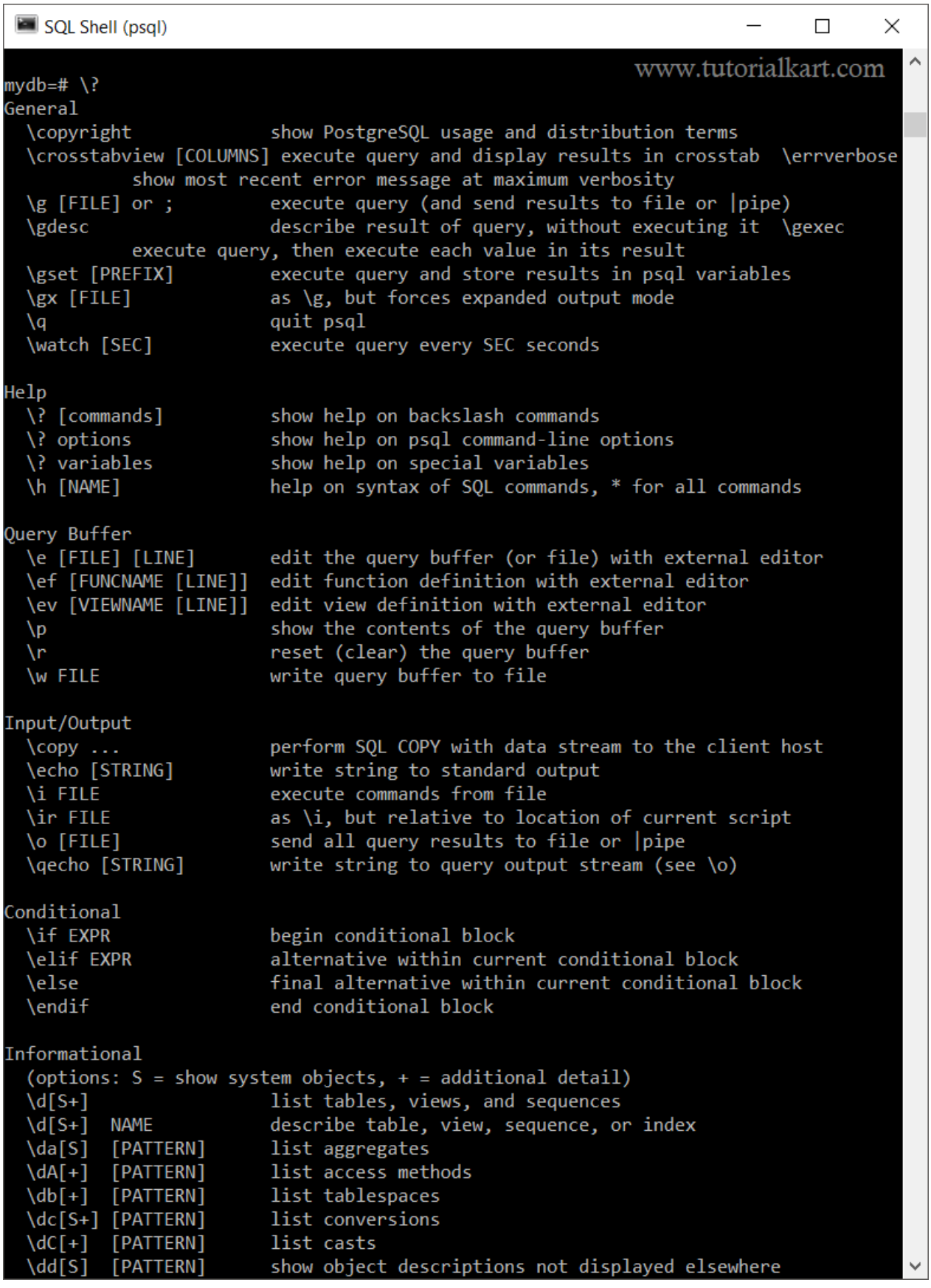


List of Console Commands and Options

\?

\?

This psql command is quite useful. You do not need to remember the whole list of commands.



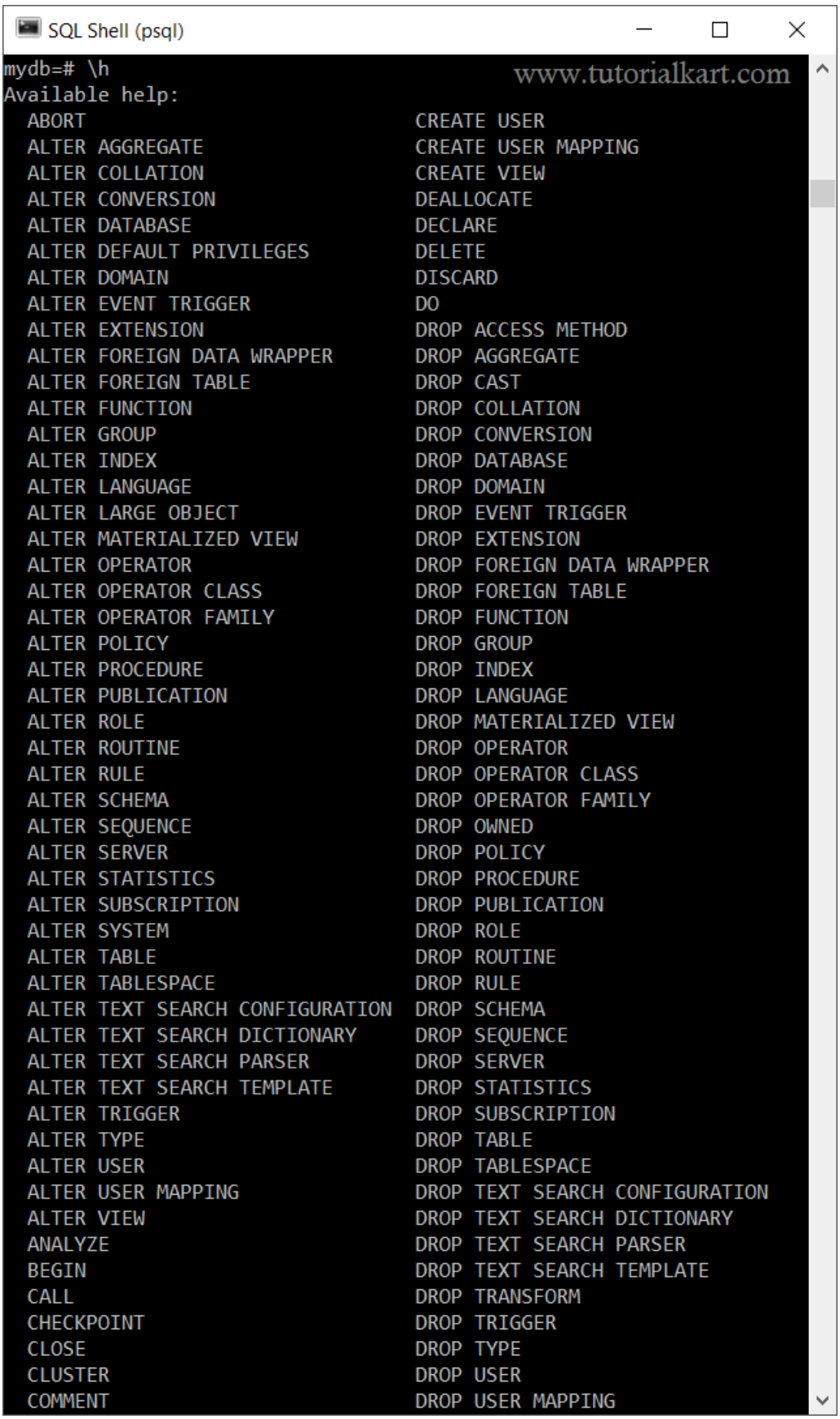
The list is big. At the end of the command prompt, you will get `-- More --`. Click enter to get the next commands in the list.

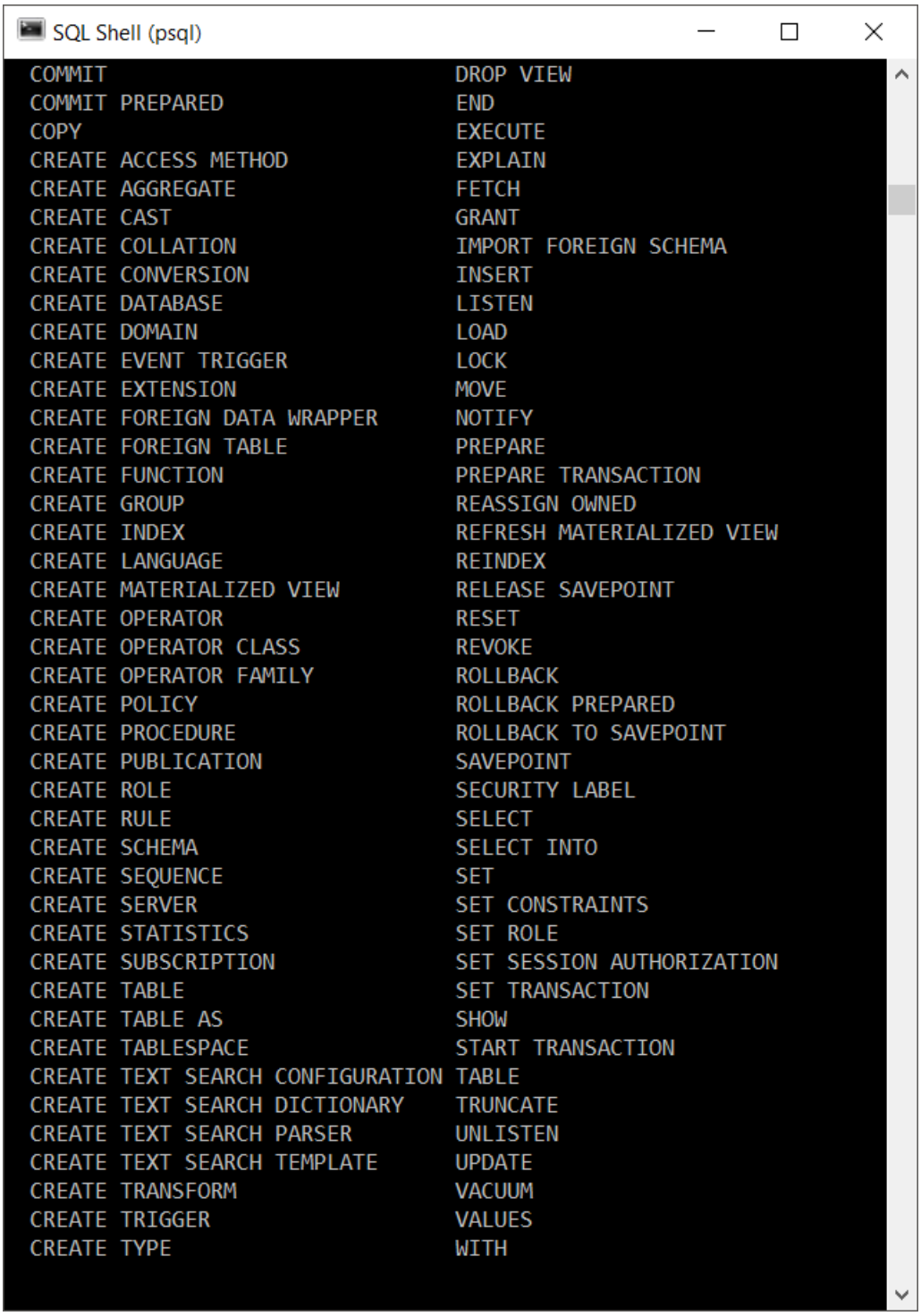
List of Available SQL syntax Help Topics

```
\h
```

```
\h
```

This psql command list all avilable SQL syntax.



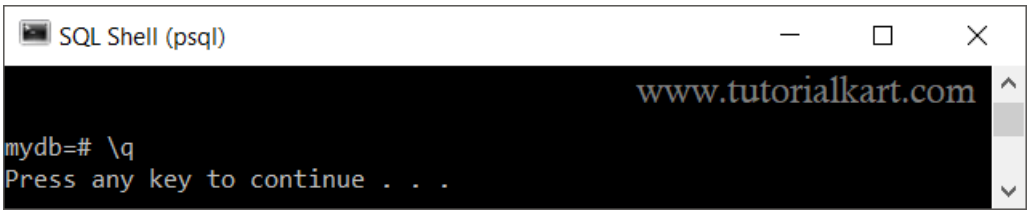


Quit psql shell

```
\q
```

\q

This psql command helps to quit out of the PostgreSQL shell.



Press any key, and you are out of psql shell.

Summary

In this tutorial, we learned about some of the useful psql commands with examples.

PostgreSQL

- PostgreSQL Tutorial
- PostgreSQL - Install
- PostgreSQL GUI
- PostgreSQL - psql Shell - Commands
- PostgreSQL - Create Database
- PostgreSQL - Select Database
- PostgreSQL - List Databases
- PostgreSQL - Drop Database
- PostgreSQL - Create Table
- PostgreSQL - Describe Table
- PostgreSQL - SHOW Tables
- PostgreSQL - Drop Table
- PostgreSQL - INSERT INTO Table
- PostgreSQL - SELECT FROM Table
- PostgreSQL - WHERE
- PostgreSQL - LIKE
- PostgreSQL - JOIN
- PostgreSQL - WITH
- PostgreSQL - UPDATE
- PostgreSQL - UPDATE FROM SELECT
- PostgreSQL - ADD COLUMN
- PostgreSQL - DELETE COLUMN
- PostgreSQL - PRIMARY KEY
- PostgreSQL - FOREIGN KEY
- PostgreSQL - SELECT INTO
- PostgreSQL - Current Date
- PostgreSQL - LIMIT
- PostgreSQL - HAVING
- PostgreSQL - DISTICNT