



[Base de connaissances](#) > [Using Deskpro](#) > [Reports](#) > ["Please reference a specific column" error](#)

## "Please reference a specific column" error

Matthew Wray - 2023-09-08 - [Commentaire \(1\)](#) - [Reports](#)

### Question:

I'm getting an error message like this: "Failed to compile DPQL. tickets.messages cannot be referenced directly. Please reference a specific column." What does this mean?

### Answer:

This happens when your query is referring to a table, instead of a particular column of values within that table.

In this case, you are doing a "FROM tickets" query. You can see in the [tickets table](#) that you can reference tickets.messages; this is not a reference to a column in the tickets table (like, say, tickets.id), but a cross-reference to a table that stores columns of data about ticket messages. This is indicated in the documentation by the table name 'Ticket Message' being shown in italics.

messages	<i>Ticket Message</i>
----------	-----------------------

**For the report to work, you need to look at the [Messages](#) table and pick a column to reference: for example, tickets.messages.date\_created**