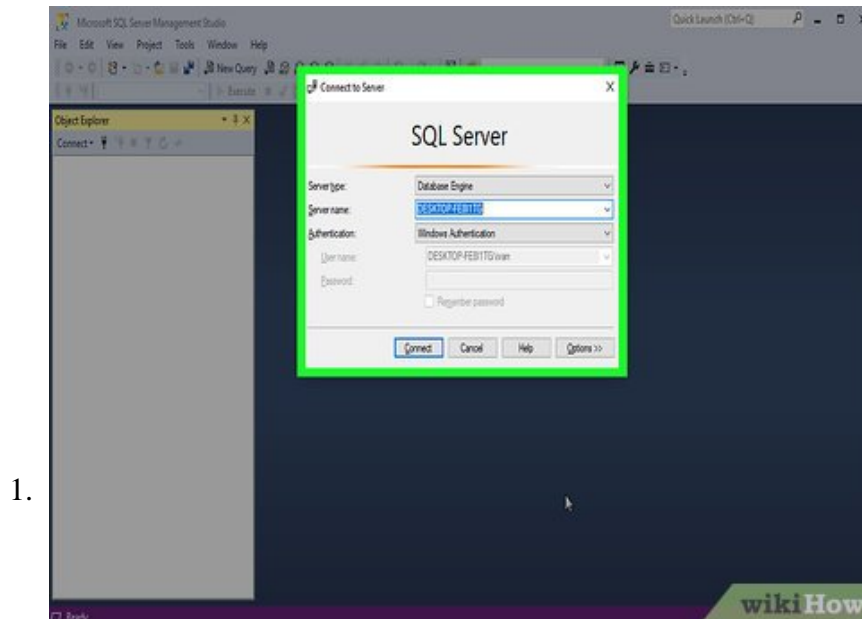


# How to Reset SA Password in Sql Server

This wikiHow teaches you how to reset a forgotten System Administrator (SA) password in Microsoft's SQL Server. You can do this by logging in with Windows Authentication, using Command Prompt, or using Single-User Mode. Understand how this...

Method 1 of 3:

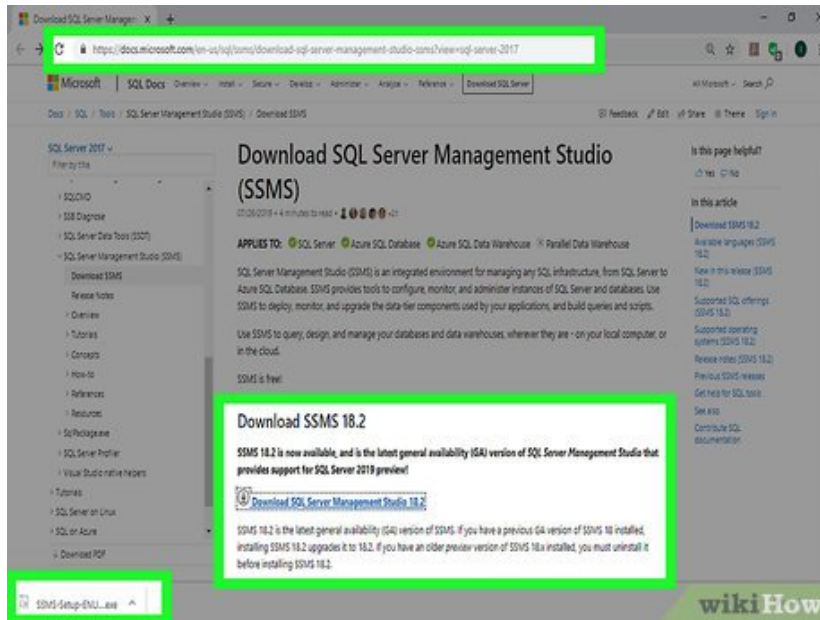
## Using Windows Authentication



**Understand how this method works.** If Windows Authentication is enabled for your server, you can use it to log into your server without having to enter a password. After you're logged in, you can easily change the SQL server's password.<sup>[1]</sup>

1. If Windows Authentication isn't enabled, you'll need to either use Single-User Mode or use Command Prompt to reset your password.

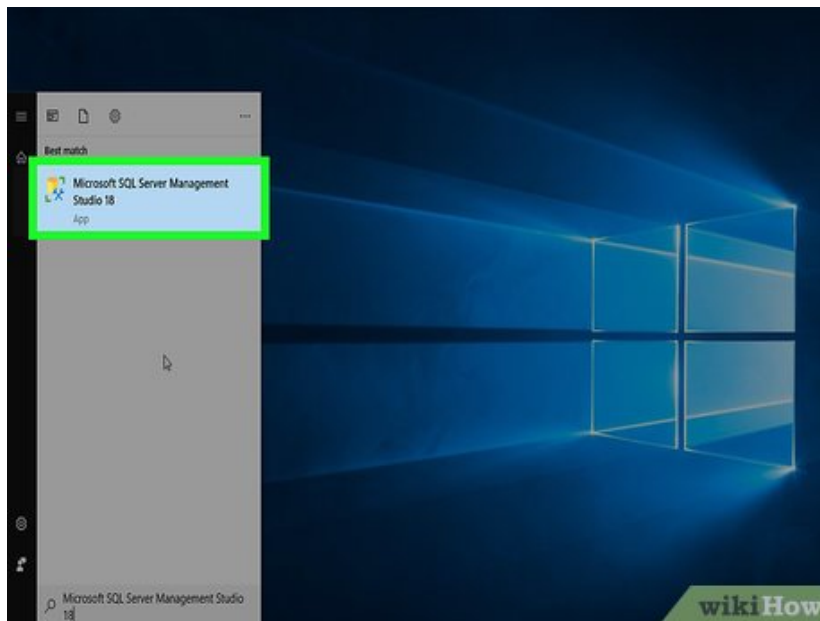
2.



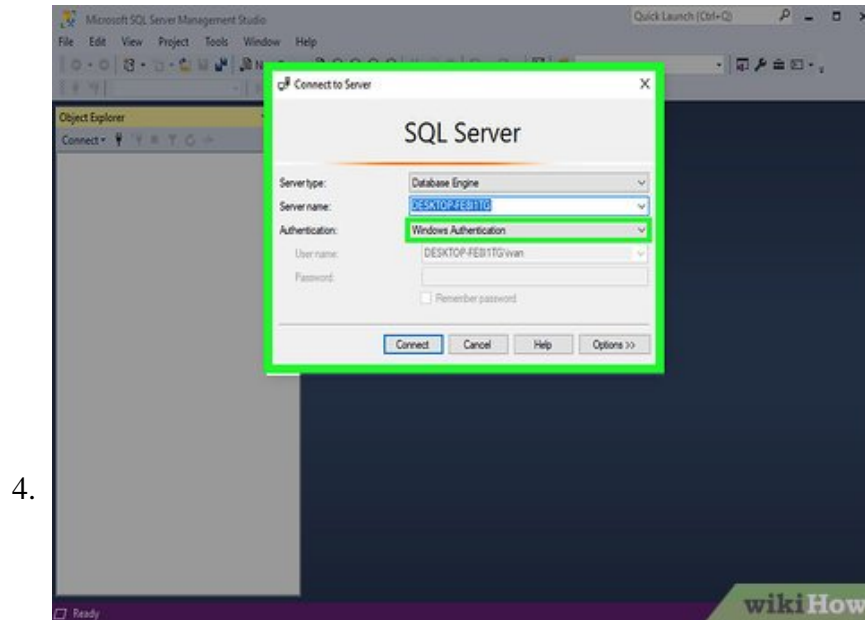
**Make sure that SSMS is installed.** SSMS is a user interface which allows you to change different aspects of your SQL Server settings in a window rather than in Command Prompt. If you don't have SSMS installed, do the following:

1. Go to the SSMS installation page in a browser.
2. Click the **Download SQL Server Management Studio 17.6** link.
3. Double-click the downloaded SSMS setup file.
4. Follow the on-screen prompts to install SSMS.

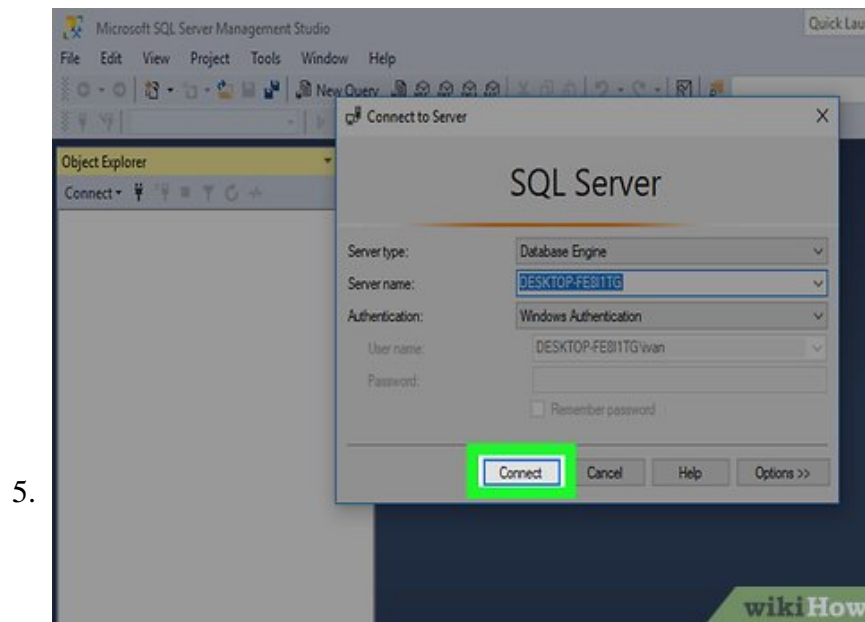
3.



**Open SSMS.** Type `sql server management studio` into Start, then click **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 17** at the top of the Start window.

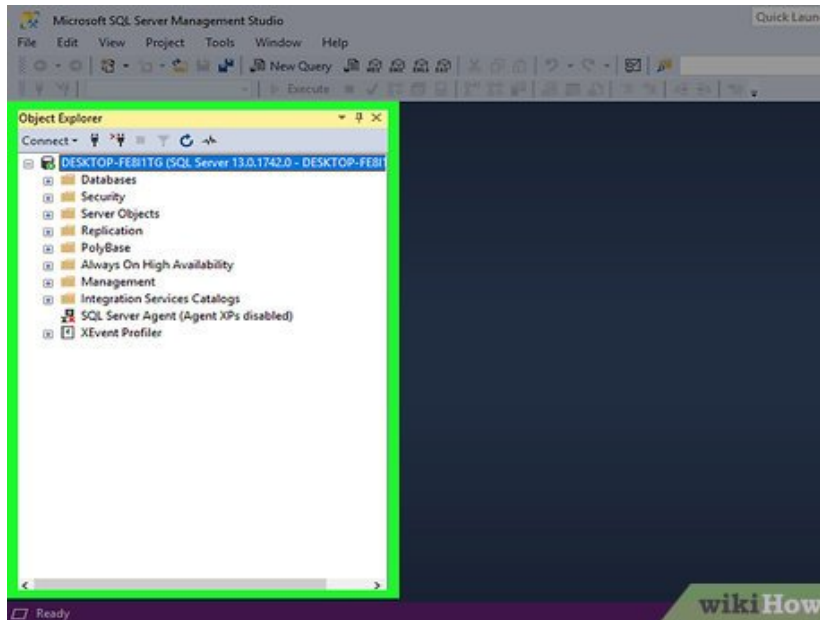


**Select the correct authentication.** Click the "Authentication" drop-down box, then click **Windows Authentication** in the menu.



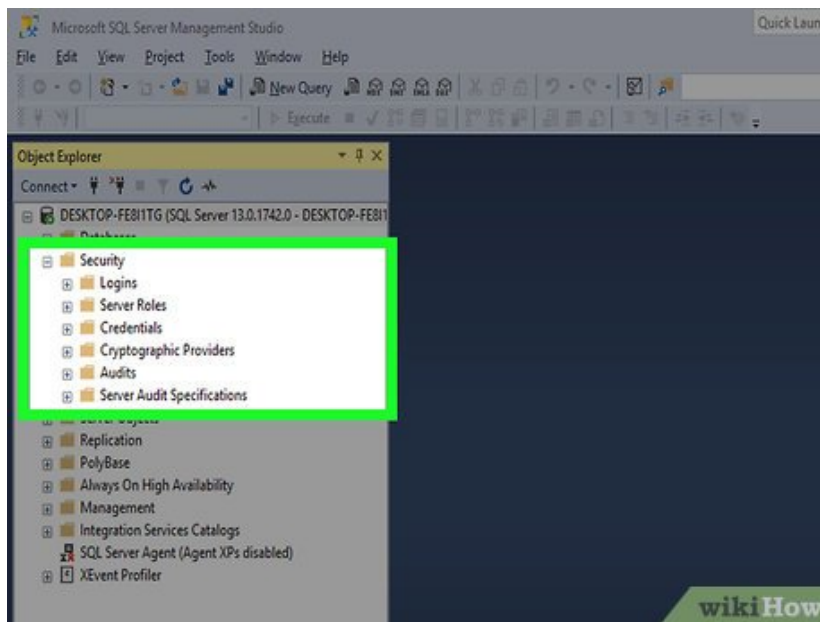
**Click **Connect****. It's at the bottom of the window. If Windows Authentication is allowed for your account, doing so will log you into your server's dashboard.

6.

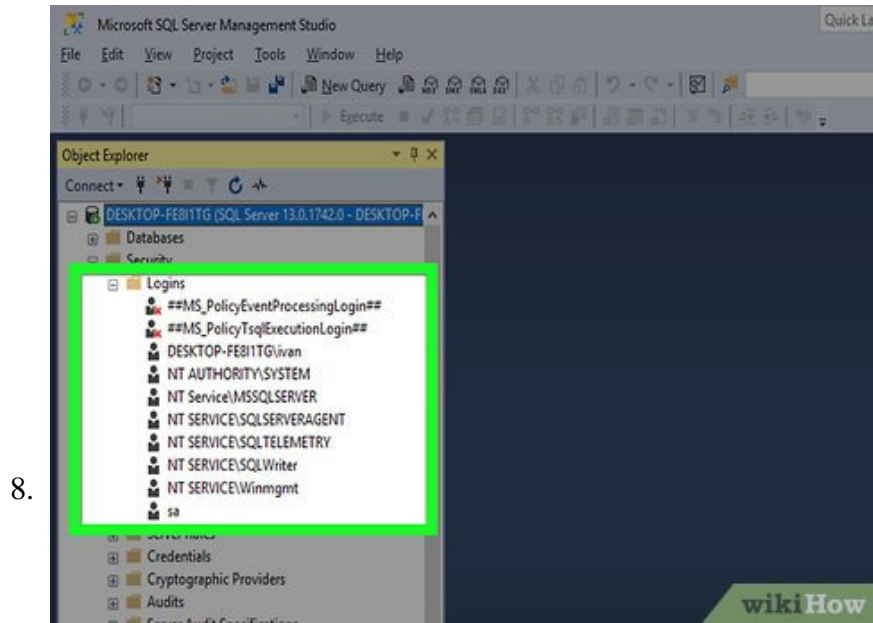


**Expand your server's folder.** If your server's folder in the upper-left side of the window doesn't have several options below it, click the ? icon to the left of it to expand it.

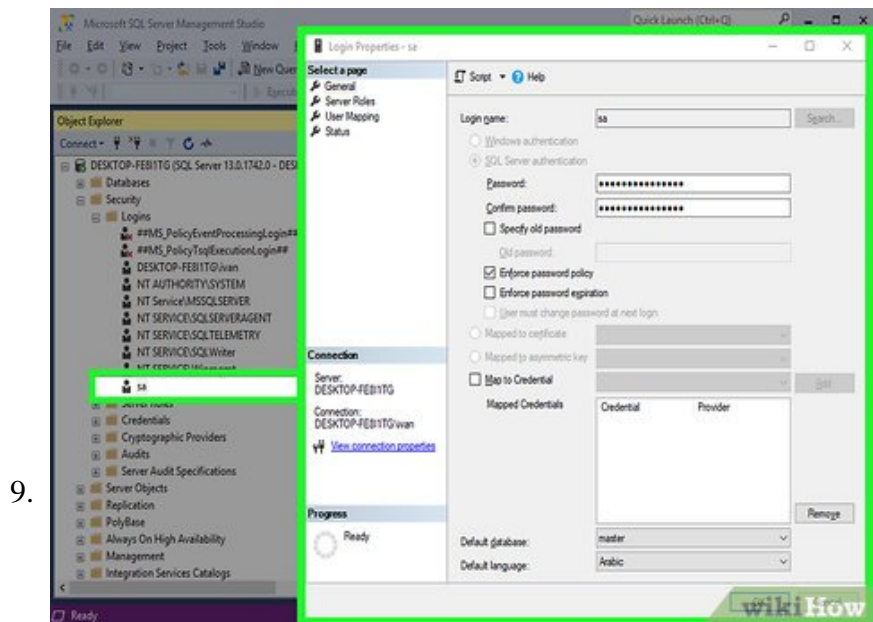
7.



**Expand the "Security" folder.** It's below the server's name.

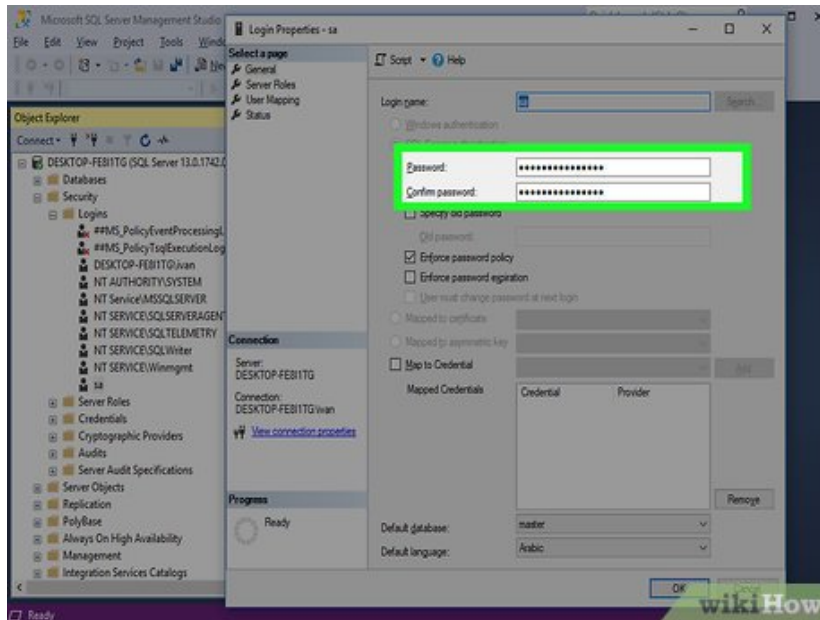


Expand the "Logins" folder. You'll find this in the group of options below the "Security" folder.



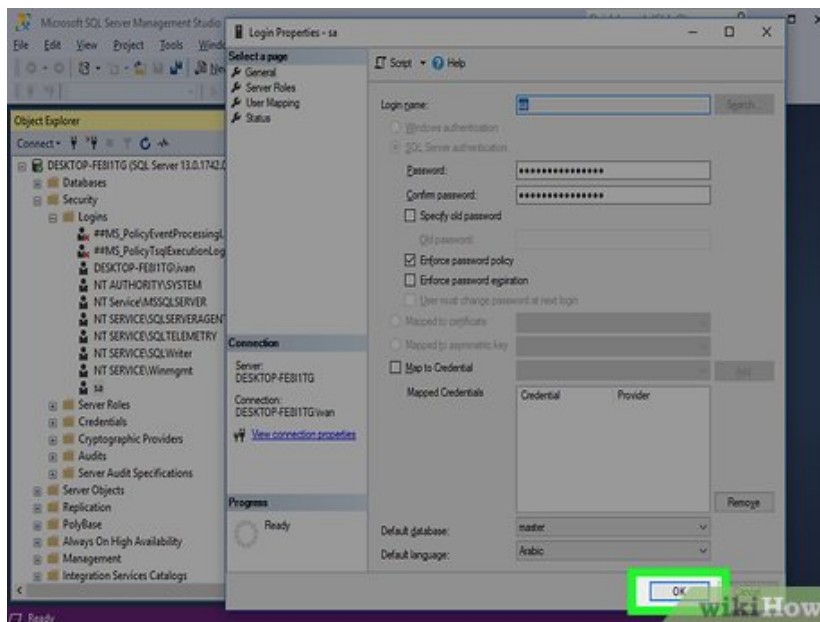
Double-click **sa**. It's in the "Logins" group of options. Doing so opens your System Administrator properties window.

10.



**Enter a new password.** Type your new password into both the "Password" and the "Confirm password" text fields near the top of the window.

11.

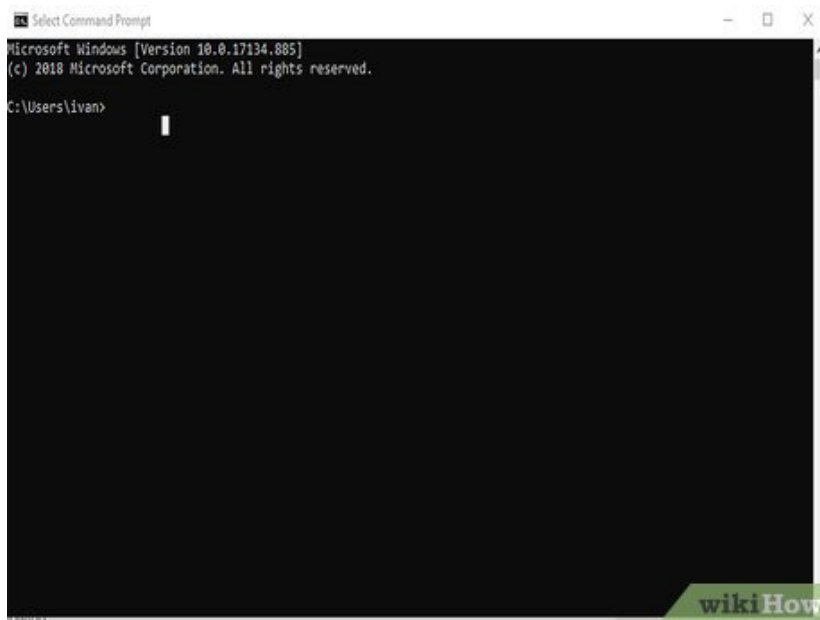


**Click** . It's at the bottom of the window. Doing so will change your password and close the properties window.

Method 2 of 3:

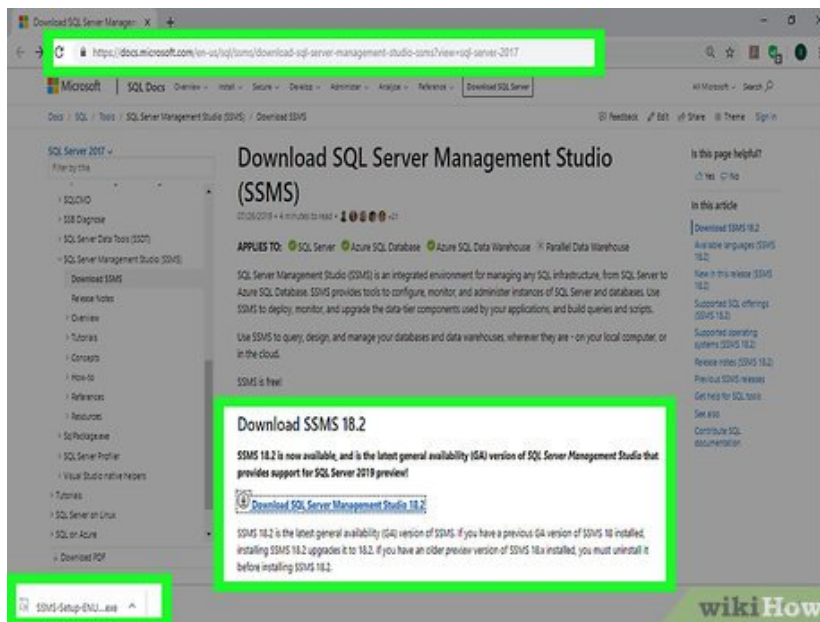
## Using Single-User Mode

1.



**Understand how this method works.** Even if you've locked out your only account, you can add a user and give them administrator permissions by using the Command Prompt. After doing this, you can use the new user's credentials to log into your SQL Server page, from which point you can change the SA password.<sup>[2]</sup>

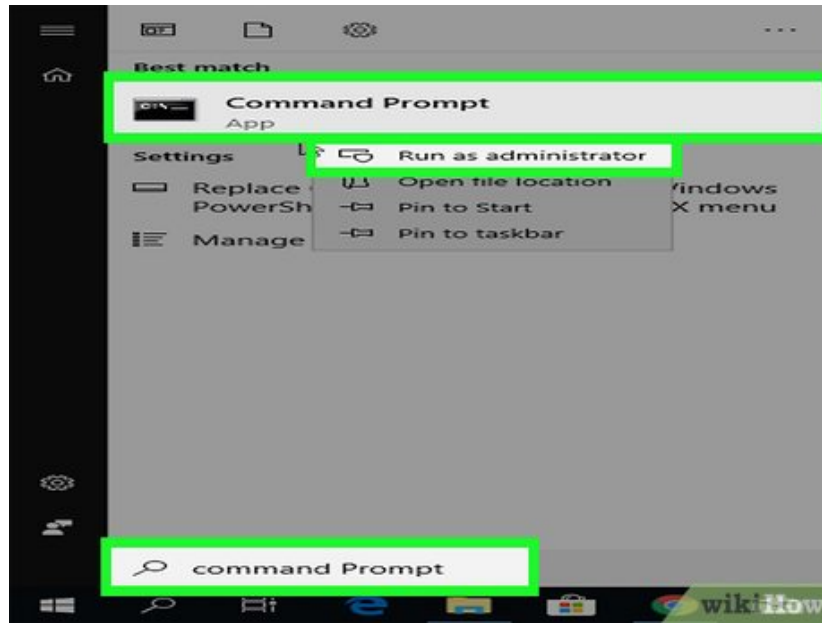
2.



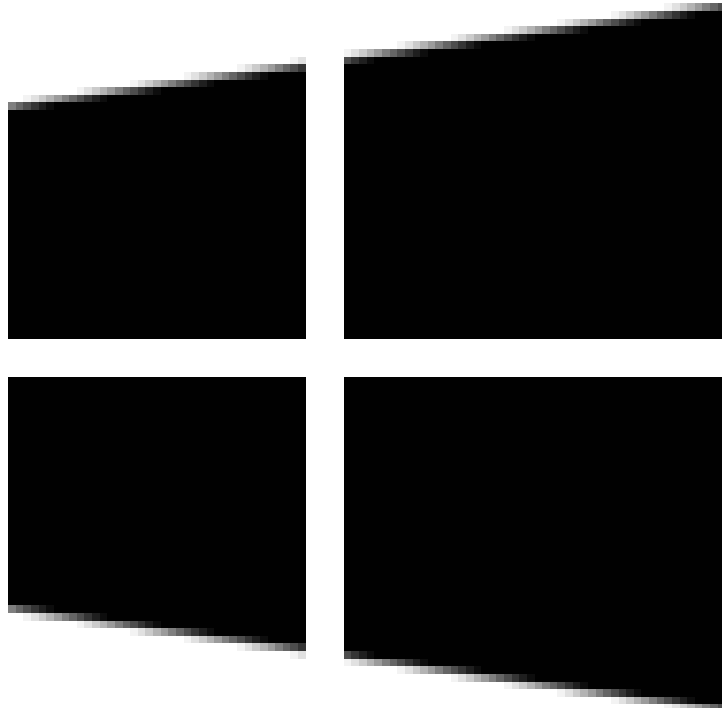
**Make sure that SSMS is installed.** SSMS is a user interface which allows you to change different aspects of your SQL Server settings in a window rather than in Command Prompt. If you don't have SSMS installed, do the following:

1. Go to the SSMS installation page in a browser.
2. Click the **Download SQL Server Management Studio 17.6** link.
3. Double-click the downloaded SSMS setup file.
4. Follow the on-screen prompts to install SSMS.

3.



Open Command Prompt in administrator mode. Open Start



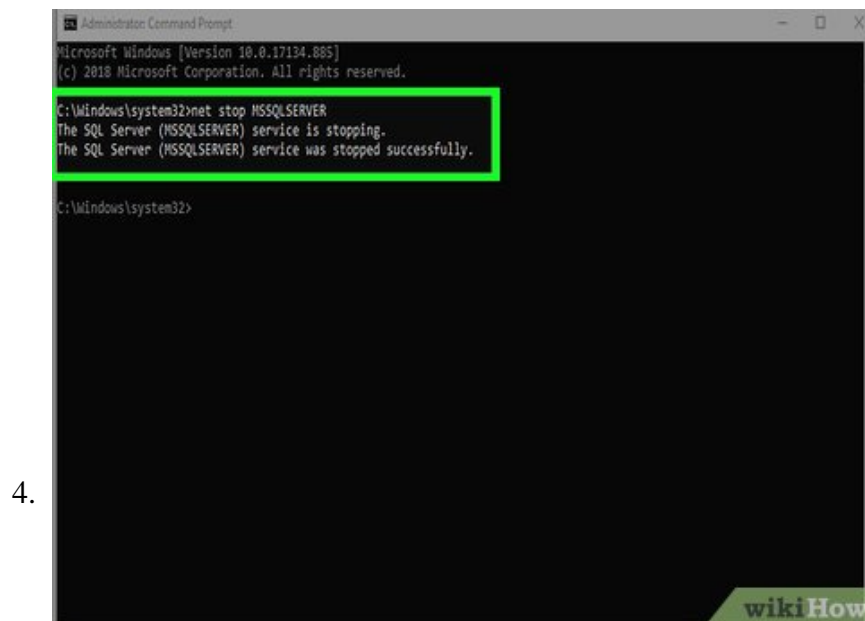
, then do the following:

1. Type in `command prompt`
2. Right-click



### Command Prompt

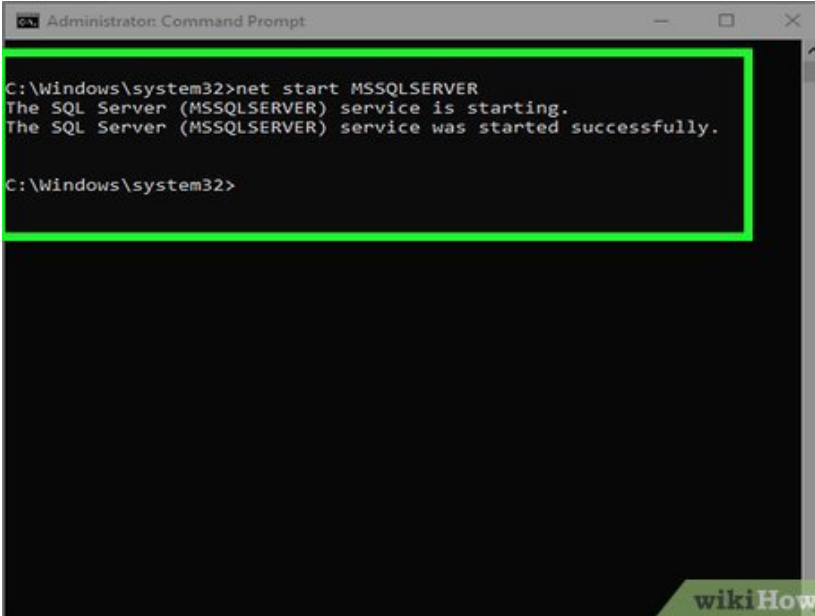
3. Click **Run as administrator**
4. Click **Yes** when prompted.



4.

**Stop SQL Instance from running.** Type in `net stop MSSQLSERVER` and press `?Enter`. This will stop the currently running SQL services.

5.



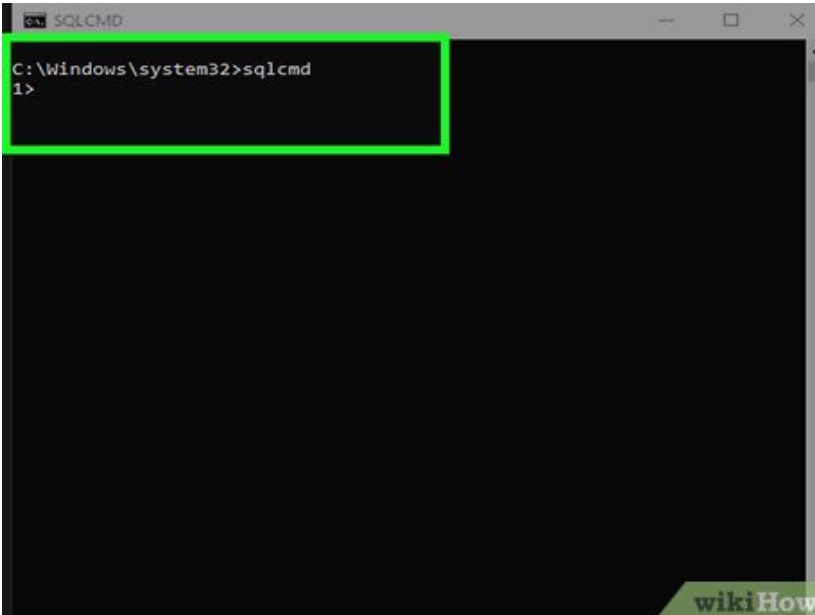
```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Windows\system32>net start MSSQLSERVER
The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service is starting.
The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service was started successfully.
C:\Windows\system32>
```

wikiHow

**Restart SQL in Single-User Mode.** Type in `net start MSSQLSERVER -m "SQLCMD"` and press `?Enter`.

1. You won't see any indication that you're running in Single-User Mode at this point, but you should see the phrase "The SQL Server service was started successfully" appear.

6.

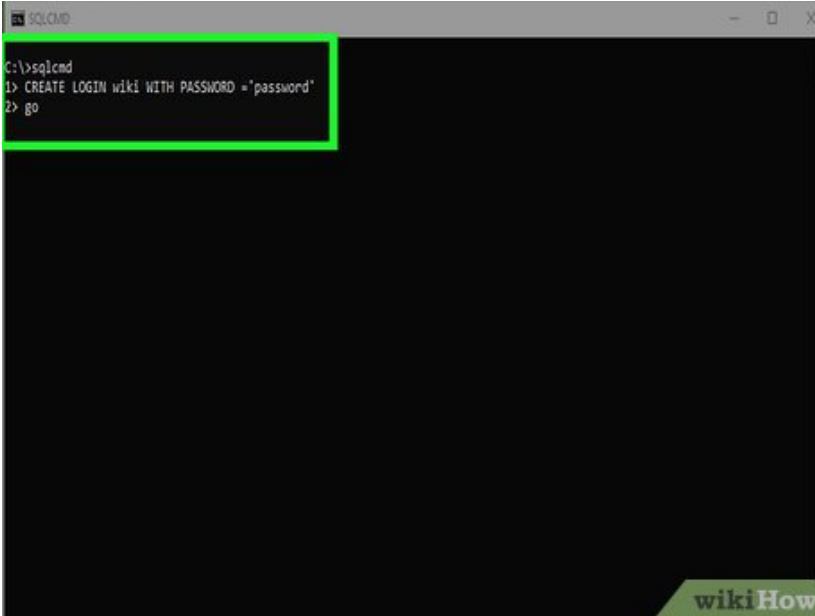


```
SQLCMD
C:\Windows\system32>sqlcmd
1>
```

wikiHow

**Connect to SQL.** Type in `sqlcmd` and press `?Enter`. Doing so opens the SQL command line.

7.



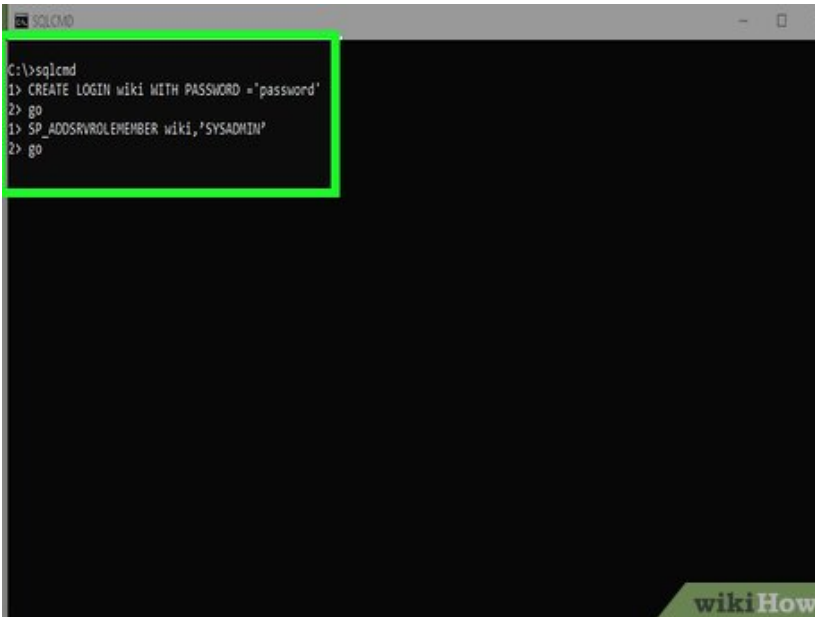
```
C:\>sqlcmd
1> CREATE LOGIN wiki WITH PASSWORD = 'password'
2> go
```

The screenshot shows a black command prompt window titled "SQLCMD". The prompt is "C:\>sqlcmd". The first command entered is "1> CREATE LOGIN wiki WITH PASSWORD = 'password'", followed by "2> go". A green rectangular box highlights the first two lines of the command prompt. The "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the window.

**Create a new user and password.** You'll do this with typed commands in the SQL command line:

1. Type in `CREATE LOGIN name WITH PASSWORD = 'password'` where "name" is the account name and "password" is the new password.
2. Press `?Enter`.
3. Type in `GO` and press `?Enter`.

8.

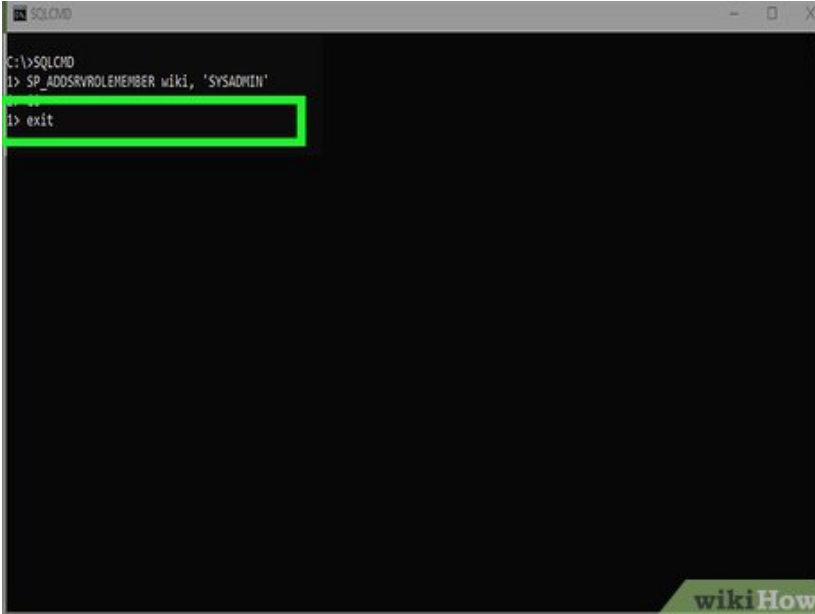


```
C:\>sqlcmd
1> CREATE LOGIN wiki WITH PASSWORD = 'password'
2> go
1> SP_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER wiki,'SYSADMIN'
2> go
```

The screenshot shows a black command prompt window titled "SQLCMD". The prompt is "C:\>sqlcmd". The first command entered is "1> CREATE LOGIN wiki WITH PASSWORD = 'password'", followed by "2> go". The second command entered is "1> SP\_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER wiki,'SYSADMIN'", followed by "2> go". A green rectangular box highlights the first four lines of the command prompt. The "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the window.

**Add the user to the System Administrator role.** Type in `SP_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER name , ' SYSADMIN '` where "name" is the account name, press `?Enter`, and then type in `GO` and press `?Enter`.

9.

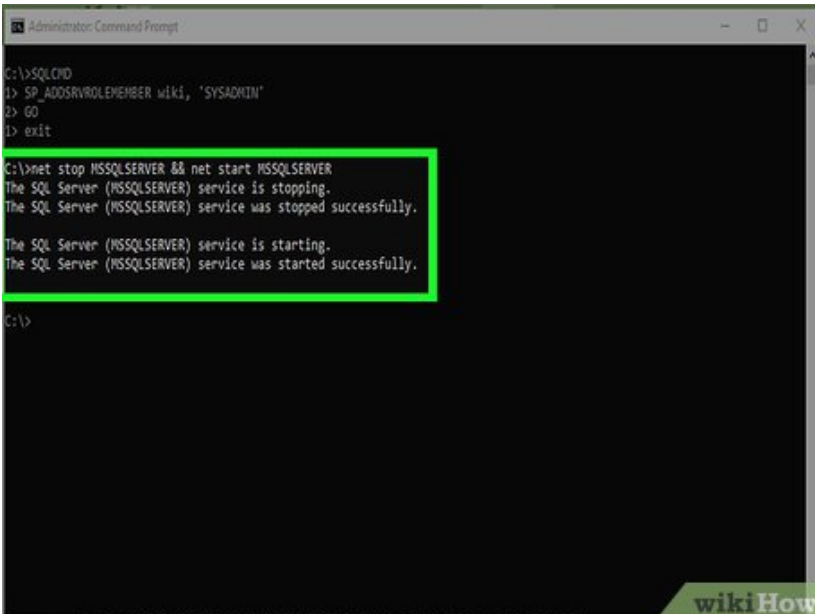


```
C:\>SQLCMD
1> SP_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER wiki, 'SYSADMIN'
2> GO
3> exit
```

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled 'SQLCMD'. The prompt is 'C:\>SQLCMD'. The user has entered three lines of commands: '1> SP\_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER wiki, 'SYSADMIN'', '2> GO', and '3> exit'. The 'exit' command is highlighted with a green box. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

**Exit the SQLCMD command line.** Type in `exit` and press `Enter`.

10.



```
C:\>SQLCMD
1> SP_ADDSRVROLEMEMBER wiki, 'SYSADMIN'
2> GO
3> exit

C:\>net stop MSSQLSERVER && net start MSSQLSERVER
The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service is stopping.
The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service was stopped successfully.

The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service is starting.
The SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service was started successfully.

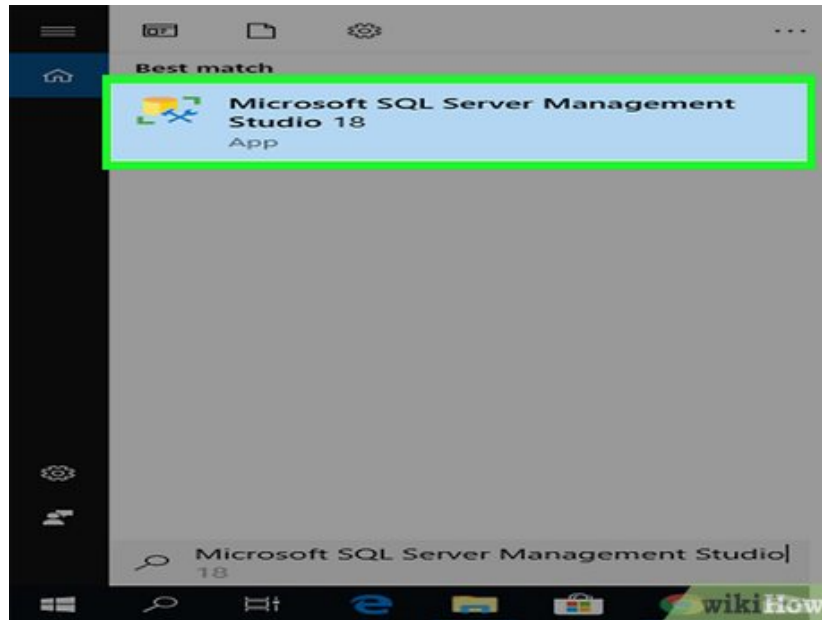
C:\>
```

The screenshot shows an 'Administrator: Command Prompt' window. It displays the same SQLCMD session as the previous image, followed by the execution of the command 'C:\>net stop MSSQLSERVER && net start MSSQLSERVER'. The output shows the service stopping and then starting successfully. The entire output block is highlighted with a green box. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

**Restart SQL in regular mode.** You can cancel Single-User Mode by typing in `net stop MSSQLSERVER && net start MSSQLSERVER` and pressing `Enter`.

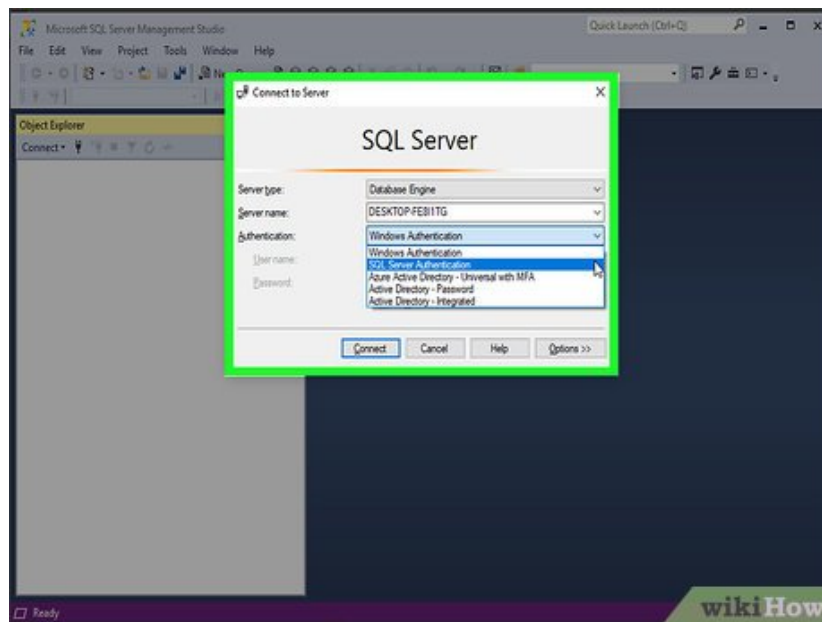
1. You should see the "The SQL Server service was started successfully" phrase appear again; at this point, you can close Command Prompt.

11.



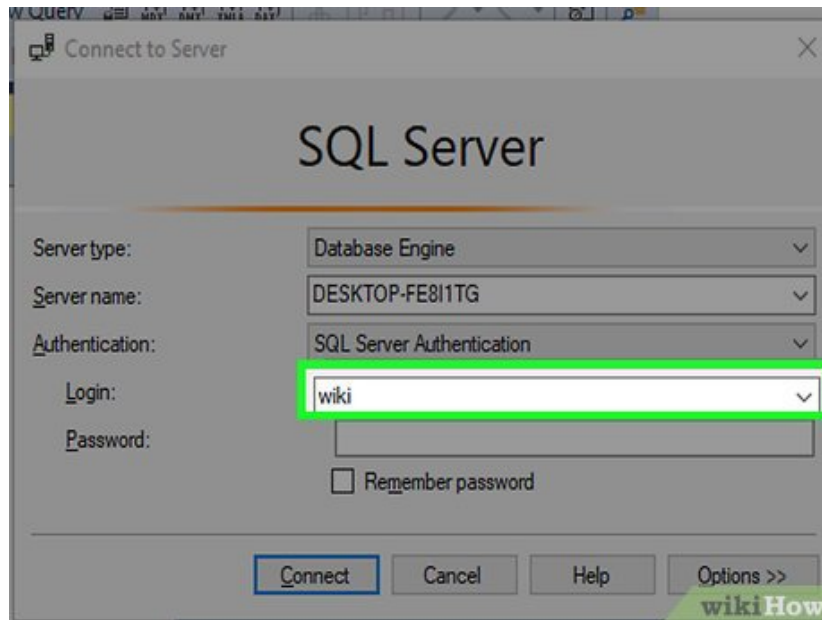
**Open SSMS.** Type `sql server management studio` into Start, then click **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 17** at the top of the Start window.

12.



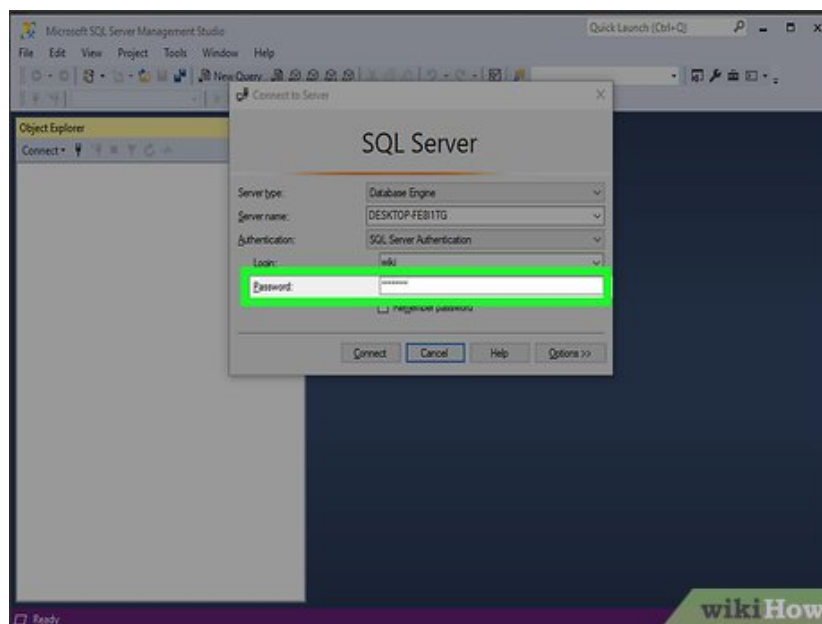
**Select the correct authentication.** Click the "Authentication" drop-down box, then click **SQL Server Authentication** in the menu.

13.



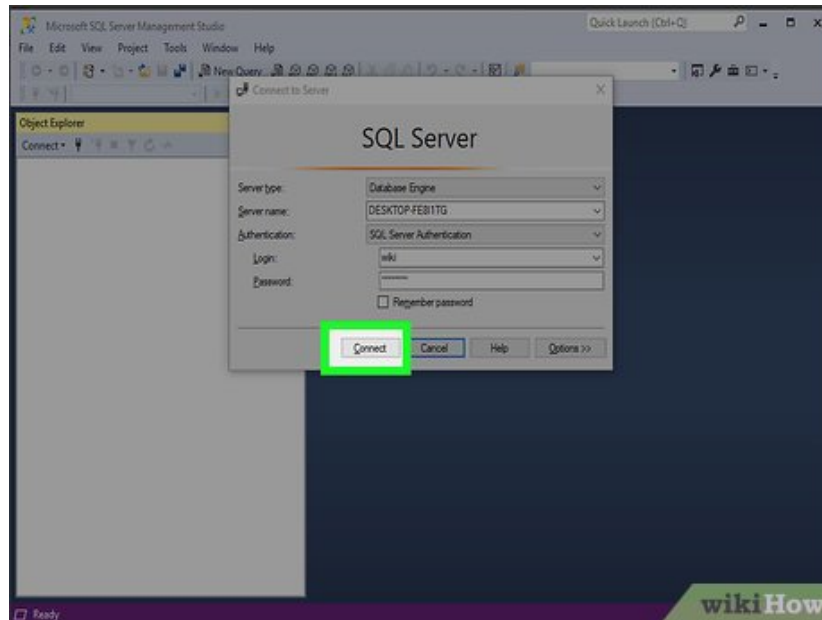
**Log in with the new user's credentials.** Click the "Login" drop-down box, then click the name of the user you just created.

14.



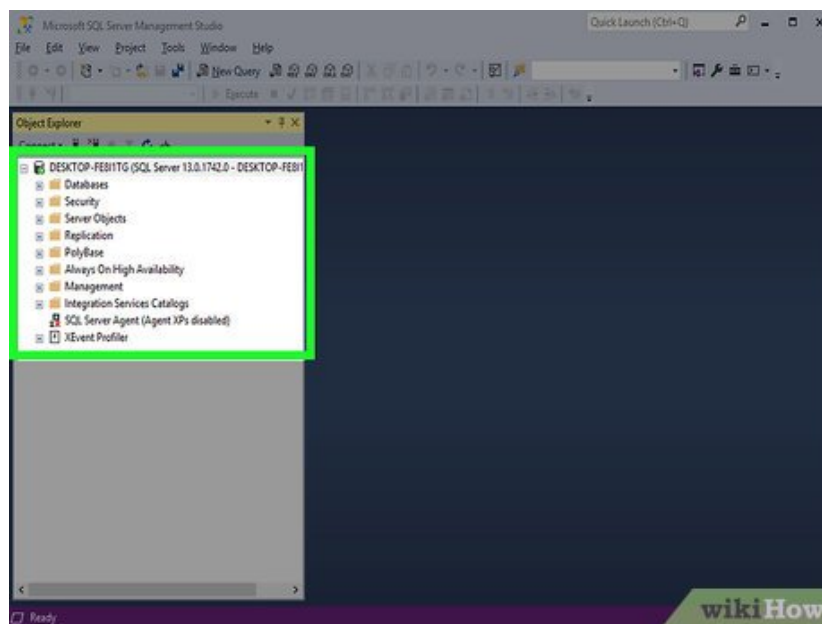
**Enter the password.** Type the user's password into the "Password" text box near the bottom of the window.

15.



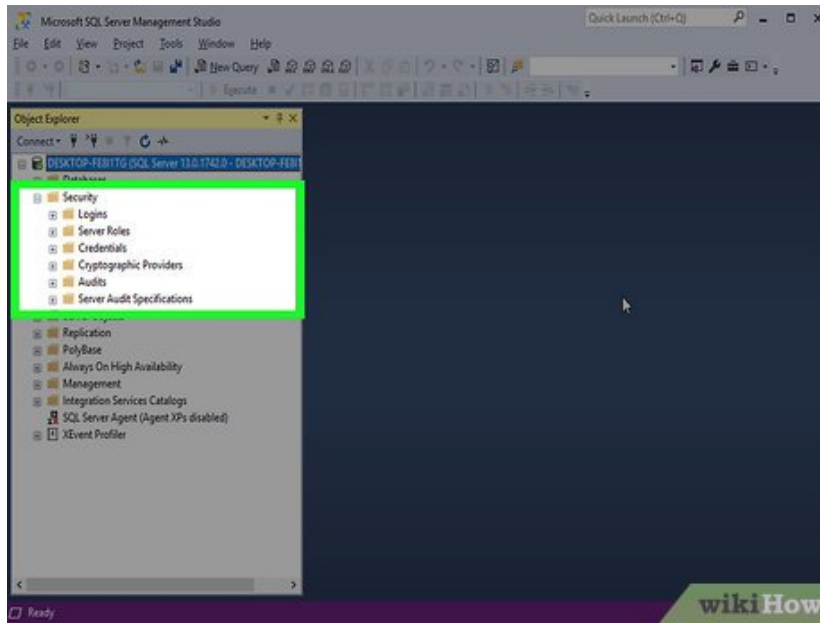
Click **Connect** . It's at the bottom of the window. As long as you adequately entered your username and password, this will open your server's dashboard.

16.



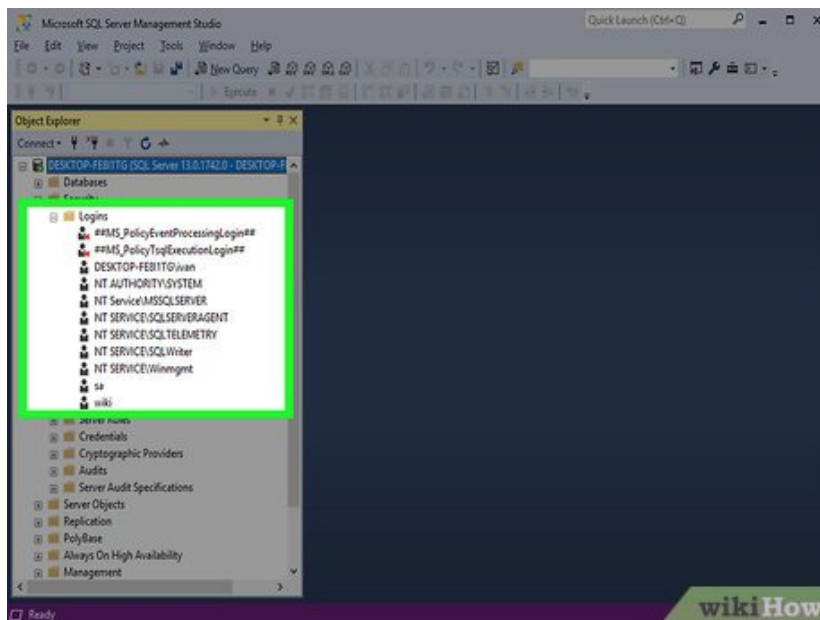
**Expand your server's folder.** If your server's folder in the upper-left side of the window doesn't have several options below it, click the ? icon to the left of it to expand it.

17.



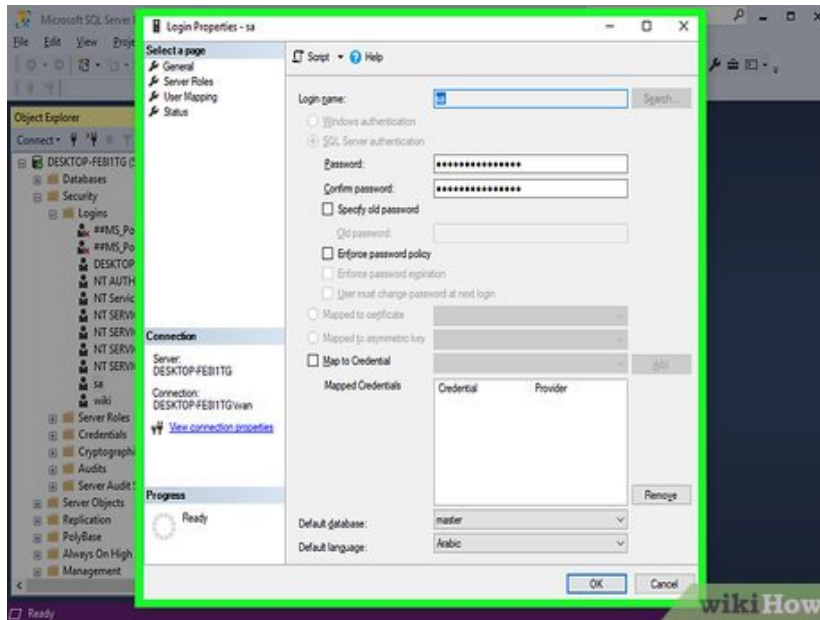
Expand the "Security" folder. It's below the server's name.

18.



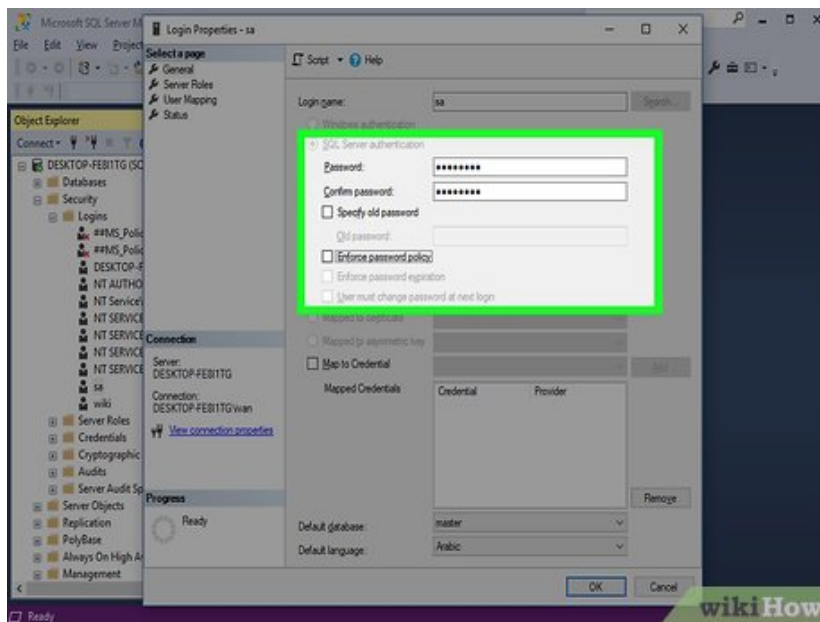
Expand the "Logins" folder. You'll find this in the group of options below the "Security" folder.

19.



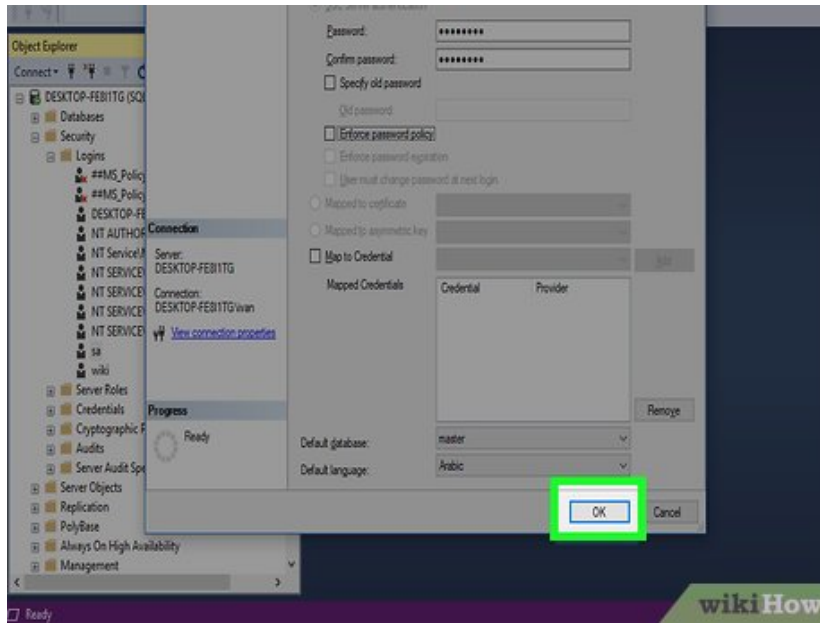
**Double-click** `sa`. It's in the "Logins" group of options. Doing so opens your System Administrator properties window.

20.



**Enter a new password.** Type your new password into both the "Password" and the "Confirm password" text fields near the top of the window.

21.

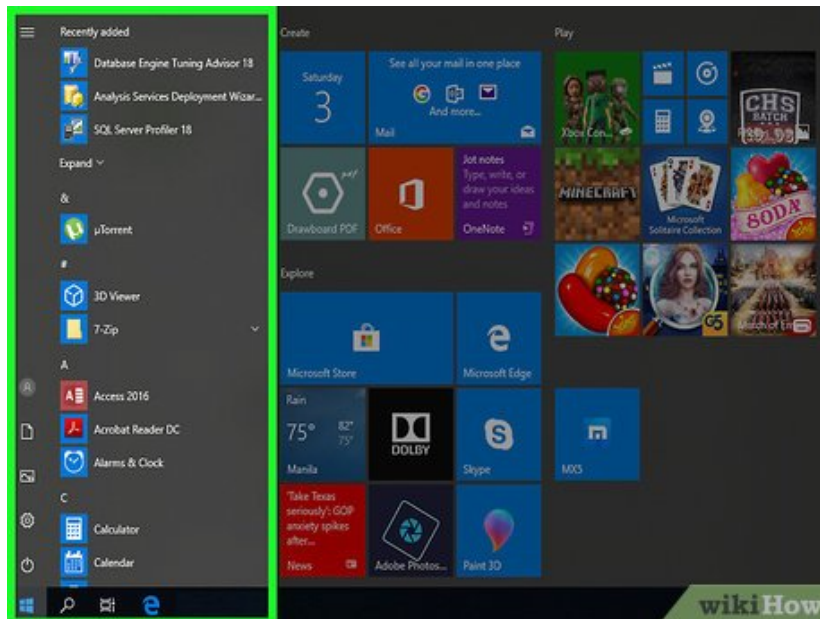


Click **OK**. It's at the bottom of the window. Doing so will change your password and close the properties window.

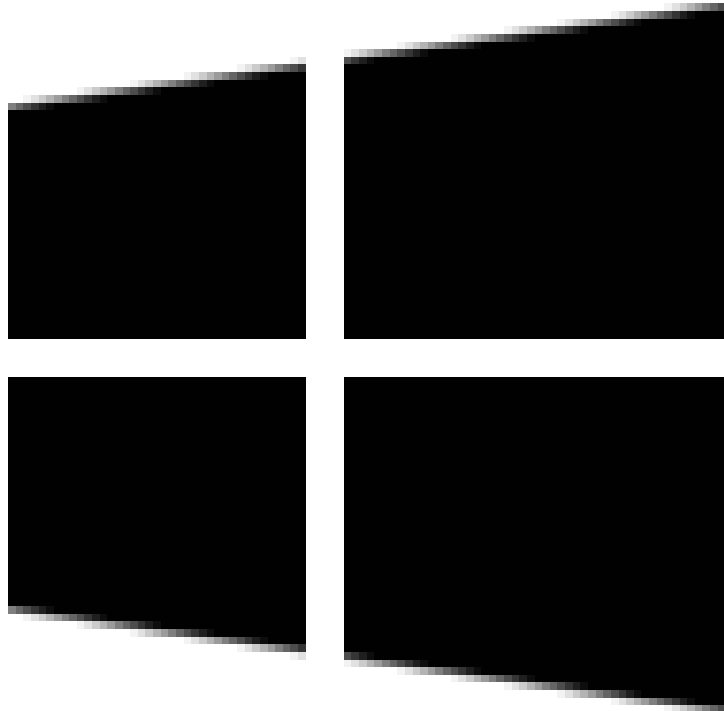
Method 3 of 3:

## Using Command Prompt

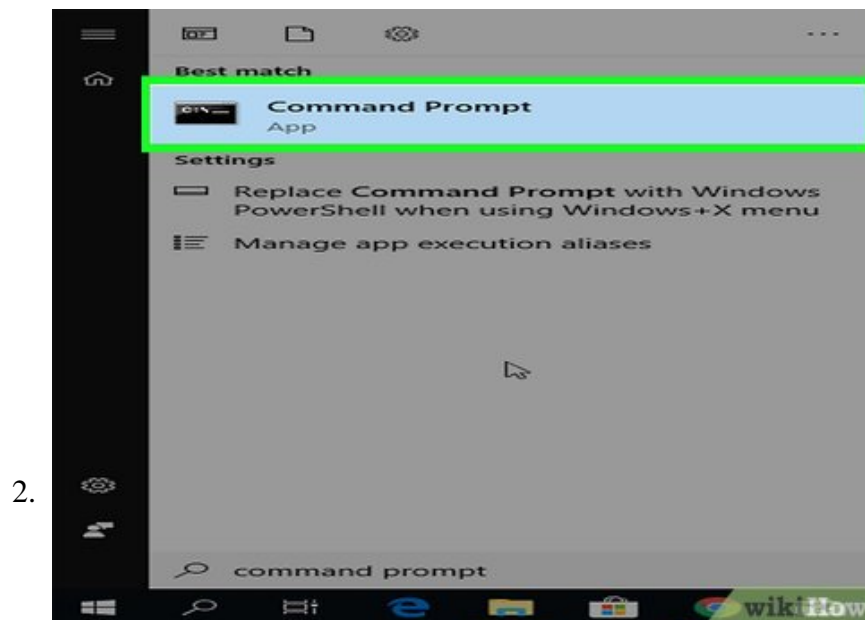
1.



Open Start

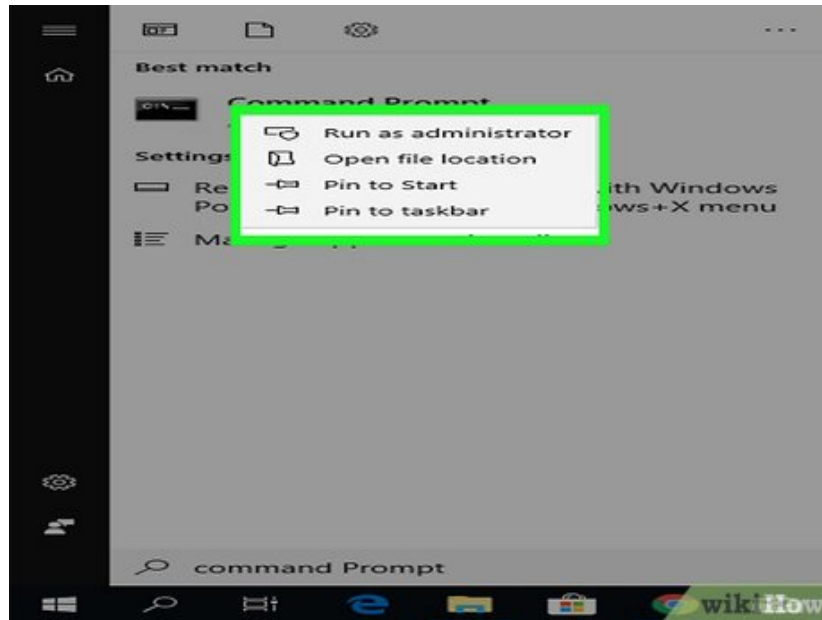


. Click the Windows logo in the bottom-left corner of the screen. This will open the Start menu.



**Search for Command Prompt.** Type in `command prompt`, then wait for Command Prompt to appear at the top of the Start menu.

3.

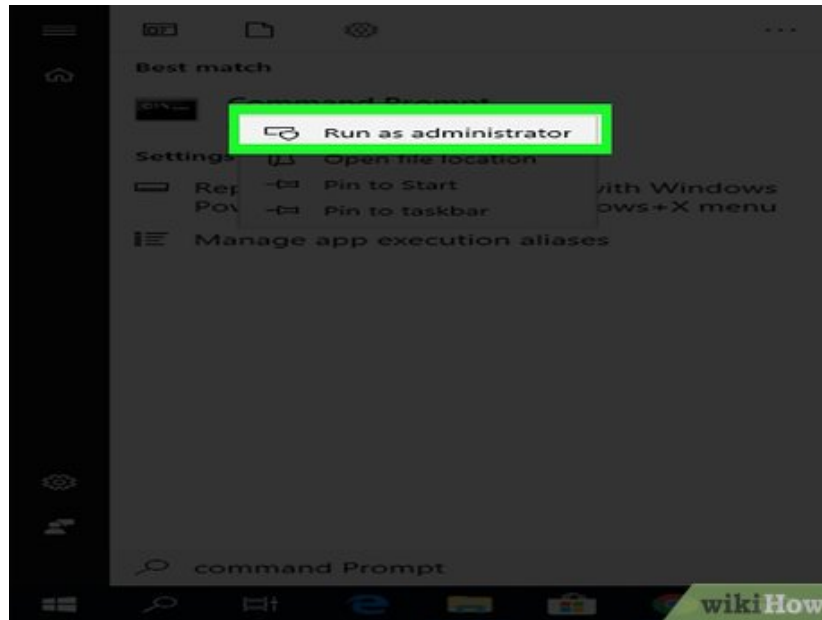


**Right-click**



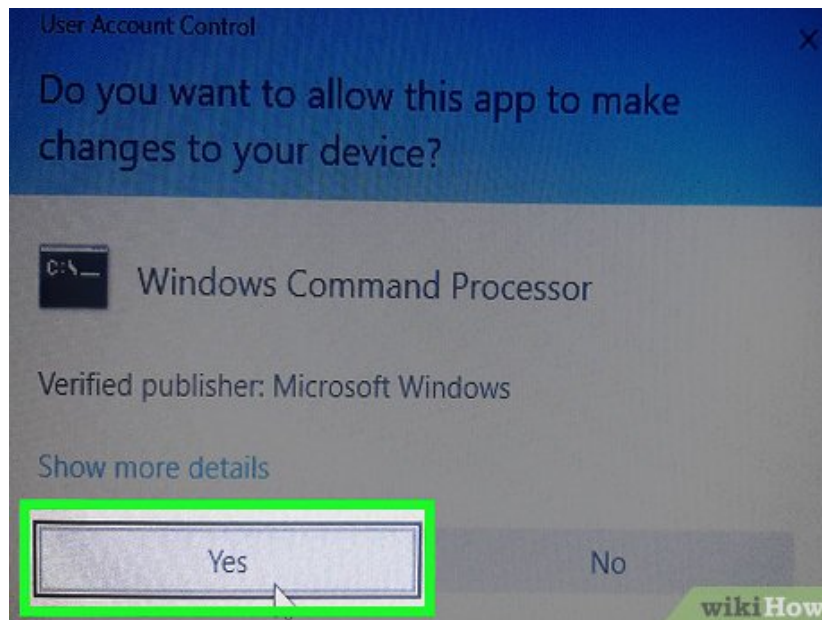
**Command Prompt.** Doing so will prompt a drop-down menu.

4.



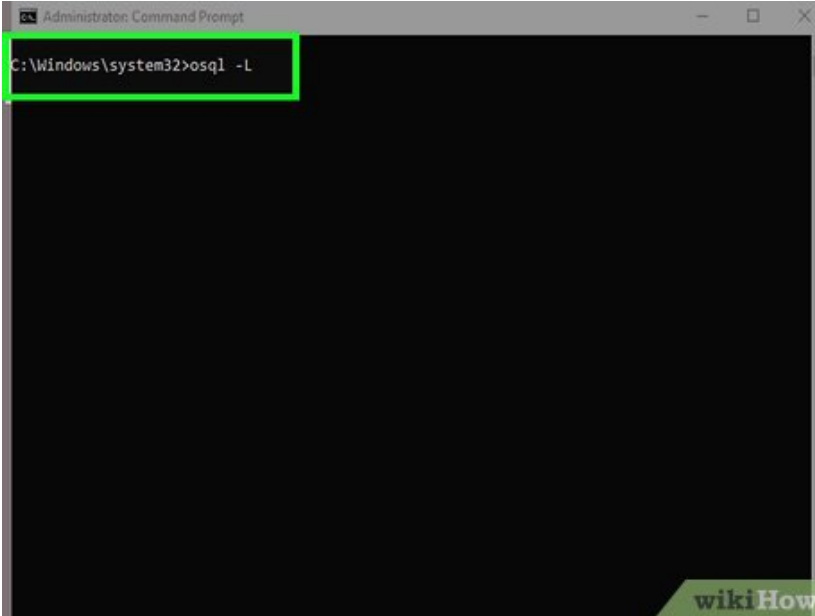
Click . It's in the drop-down menu.

5.



Click  when prompted. This will confirm your decision to open Command Prompt in administrator mode. The Command Prompt window should open.

6.

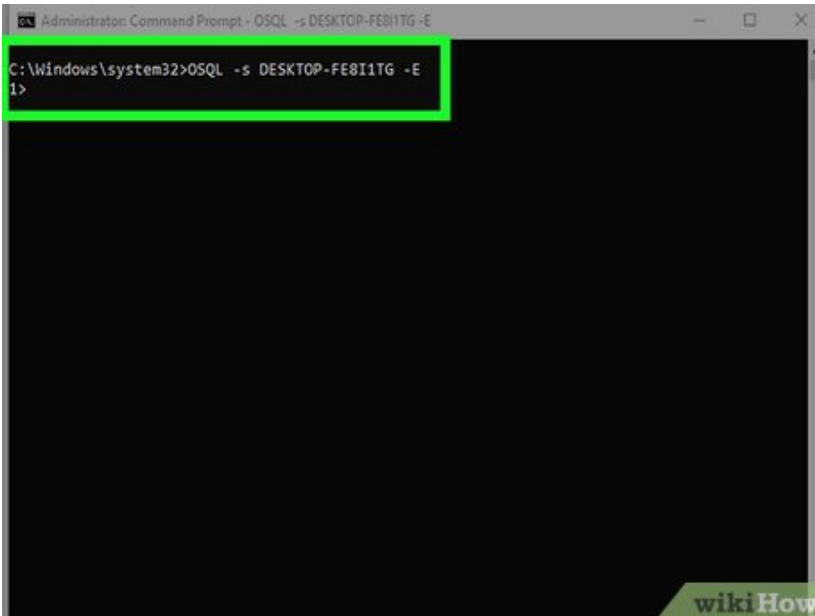


```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Windows\system32>osql -L
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt". The command prompt shows the current directory as "C:\Windows\system32" and the command "osql -L" has been entered. The text "osql -L" is highlighted with a green box. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the window.

**Enter the first command.** Type in `osql -L` and press Enter.<sup>[3]</sup>

7.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
C:\Windows\system32>OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
1>
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt - OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E". The command prompt shows the current directory as "C:\Windows\system32" and the command "OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E" has been entered. The text "OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E" is highlighted with a green box. Below the command, a cursor is visible on a new line. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the window.

**Enter the second command with your server's name.** Type in `OSQL -s server -E` where "server" is replaced by your server's name, then press Enter.

```
Administrator: Command Prompt - OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
C:\Windows\system32>OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
1> EXEC sp_password NULL, '1234567890', 'sa'
2>
```

8.

**Create a new password.** Type in `EXEC sp_password NULL, 'password', 'sa'` where "password" is replaced by the password that you want to use, then press `?Enter`.

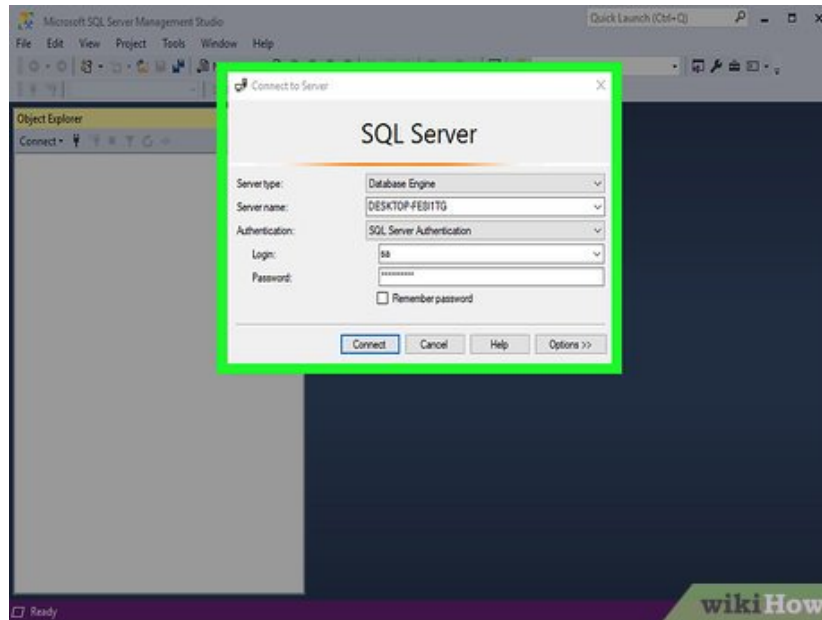
1. For example, to set your password as "rutabaga123", you would type `EXEC sp_password NULL, 'rutabaga123', 'sa'` into Command Prompt.

```
Administrator: Command Prompt - OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
C:\Windows\system32>OSQL -s DESKTOP-FE8I1TG -E
1> EXEC sp_password NULL, '1234567890', 'sa'
2> go
1> exit
```

9.

**Execute the command.** Type in `GO`, then press `?Enter`. Type `exit`, then press `?Enter` to exit OSQL.

10.



**Attempt to log into SQL Server.** Do so by using your administrator credentials and your new password. If you're able to log into SQL Server, your password was successfully changed.

You finished reading the article "**How to Reset SA Password in Sql Server**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.