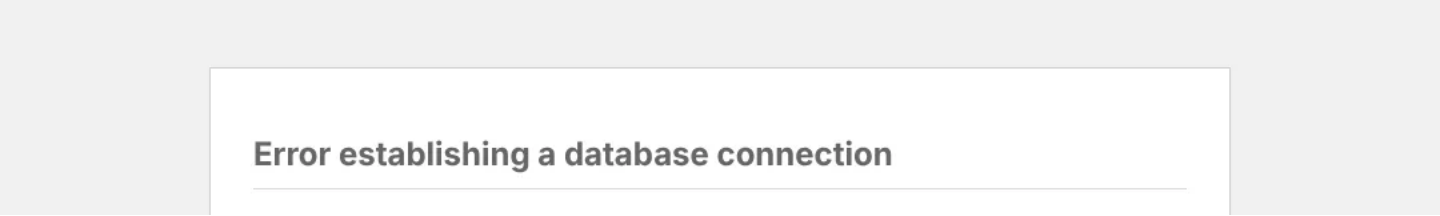
Error Establishing a Database Connection in WordPress: Check wp-config.php, User Privileges and Repair the Tables

WordPress Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/fix-error-establishing-a-database-connection-in-wordpress/

In short WordPress cannot connect to its database. Check in order: **(1)** the four values in `wp-config.php` match cPanel exactly, **(2)** the user is added to the database with all privileges, **(3)** the tables are healthy (the repair tool). If the error comes and goes on its own, contact us to check the server.

Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-w2-dberr-en.mp4?_=1



This message does not mean your content is gone. Posts and settings are still in the database; WordPress just cannot reach it.

Diagnose it in a minute

What you see	Likely cause	Fix
After moving the site or changing a password	wp-config.php details do not match	Correct the four values
After creating a new database	The user is not added to the database	Add it with all privileges in cPanel
The dashboard says One or more database tables are unavailable	Damaged tables	The repair tool

What you see	Likely cause	Fix
It comes and goes during the day	Load on the database server or resource limits	Contact us, and see resource limits

1) wp-config.php details

Open `wp-config.php` in File Manager. These four lines must match cPanel character for character:



Constant	Where to confirm it
`DB_NAME`	cPanel › MySQL Databases: the full name with prefix, such as `user_wp`
`DB_USER`	Same page, Current Users, with prefix
`DB_PASSWORD`	Not shown. If unsure, change the user's password in cPanel and enter the new one here
`DB_HOST`	On our hosting, `localhost`

A common mistake: forgetting the account prefix. cPanel adds your account name before database and user names, so a database you called `wp` is really `user_wp`.

2) Adding the user to the database

In **MySQL Databases**, under **Add User To Database**, pick the user and database, then **All Privileges**. See creating a database.

3) Repairing the tables

1. **Add the line** `define( 'WP_ALLOW_REPAIR', true );` to wp-config.php.
2. **Open the URL** `https://yourdomain/wp-admin/maint/repair.php` and click **Repair Database**.
3. **Remove the line** right away, because the page works without logging in while it is there.

You can also repair from cPanel: checking and repairing a database.

4) If the values are right and it continues

- Try phpMyAdmin. If the database will not open there either, the problem is on the server: contact us.
- Check resource usage in cPanel; exceeding it refuses new connections.
- If the site was hacked, wp-config.php may have been edited. Compare with an older copy.

Contact us if

- The error comes and goes without any change from you
- phpMyAdmin itself cannot open the database

Open a support ticket with your site address and the exact error.

Real cases and their fixes

What happened	The cause	The fix
The site was moved from another host with its files and database	The new database name has a different prefix	Edit DB_NAME and DB_USER in wp-config.php
A developer changed the database user password for security	wp-config.php was not updated	Enter the new password in DB_PASSWORD

What happened	The cause	The fix
An old file-only backup was restored	The old wp-config.php points to a deleted database	Write the correct values back
The site goes down at peak times	The account hits its resource limits	Enable caching and review heavy plugins, then upgrade if needed

How to confirm the details without guessing

phpMyAdmin shows every database name with its prefix. In **MySQL Databases** each database lists the users linked to it. If the user is not linked, that is the cause, even with the right password.

Remember that WordPress reads wp-config.php from the site’s root folder or the folder directly above it. If you find two copies, make sure you edit the one the site uses.

Running WordPress? See Hyyat Host WordPress hosting.

Questions we get

Did I lose my content?
No, it is in the database. The message only means the connection failed.

I changed my cPanel password and the error appeared
The cPanel password is separate from the database user password, unless you changed both.

Is DB_HOST always localhost?
On our hosting, yes. If you moved from another host, it may have been different there.

The site works but the dashboard says tables are unavailable
Use the repair tool above.

Need this service from Hyyat Host?Our team handles it for you, with support replying to tickets within 24 hours at most.
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