

# TABLEAU INTERVIEW Q & A



**Wasim Patwari**

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**WhatsApp:91- 9607157409**

**Presented by:Afnan And Nikhil**

## 1. What is Tableau?

Answer:

Tableau is a powerful data visualization and business intelligence (BI) tool that helps users connect to different data sources, analyze data, and create interactive dashboards and reports.

## 2. What are the different products in Tableau?

Answer:

- Tableau Desktop – Used to create reports and dashboards.
- Tableau Server – Used to publish and share dashboards across the organization.
- Tableau Online – A cloud-based version of Tableau Server.
- Tableau Public – Free version used for sharing public dashboards.
- Tableau Reader – Used to view Tableau reports offline.

## 3. What are dimensions and measures in Tableau?

Answer:

Dimensions: Qualitative fields (like Category, Region, Date). Used for slicing and grouping data.

Measures: Quantitative fields (like Sales, Profit, Quantity). Used for numerical calculations.

## 4. What are discrete and continuous fields?

Answer:

Discrete (blue): Show distinct, separate values (like Country names).

Continuous (green): Show continuous values (like Sales amounts, Dates).

## 5. What are the different types of joins in Tableau?

Answer:

- Inner Join
- Left Join
- Right Join
- Full Outer Join

(Joins are used when connecting multiple tables in the data source.)

## 6. What is a calculated field?

Answer:

A calculated field is a custom field created by using formulas or expressions to perform calculations on data (for example, Profit Ratio = Profit / Sales).

## 7. What is a dashboard in Tableau?

Answer:

A dashboard is a collection of multiple visualizations (worksheets), arranged on a single screen to analyze and present data together.

## 8. What is a story in Tableau?

Answer:

A story is a sequence of dashboards or worksheets that work together to tell a data-driven narrative.

### 9. What is a data extract in Tableau?

Answer:

A data extract is a saved snapshot of your data stored locally. It improves performance and allows offline analysis.

### 10. What are filters in Tableau?

Answer:

Filters are used to restrict or limit data shown in a view. Types include:

- Dimension filter
- Measure filter
- Context filter
- Relative date filter
- Top N filter

### 11. What is the difference between live and extract connection?

Answer:

Live connection: Connects directly to the database and fetches real-time data.

Extract connection: Uses a snapshot of data (faster, supports offline use).

### 12. What are marks in Tableau?

Answer:

Marks are visual elements like bars, lines, circles, etc., used to represent data. The Marks card controls color, size, label, detail, and tooltip of marks.

### 13. What is a hierarchy in Tableau?

Answer:

A hierarchy allows you to drill down from higher-level data to lower-level data (e.g., Country → State → City).

### 14. What is data blending in Tableau?

Answer:

Data blending combines data from multiple data sources at the visualization level, using a common field (primary and secondary data sources).

### 15. What are sets and groups in Tableau?

Answer:

- Groups: Combine similar dimension members into a single group.
- Sets: Custom fields that define a subset of data based on conditions.

### 16. What are Parameters in Tableau?

Answer:

Parameters are dynamic values that replace a constant in a calculation, filter, or reference line. They allow users to control inputs (e.g., select a region, enter a threshold value).

### 17. What is the difference between filters and parameters?

Answer:

- Filters: Restrict the data being displayed in a view.
- Parameters: Provide a single input value that can be used in calculations, filters, or reference lines. Parameters do not filter data by themselves.

### 18. What is the difference between context filter and regular filter?

Answer:

- Context Filter: Acts as an independent filter; other filters will only process data that passes through it (improves performance).
- Regular Filter: Applies directly to all data without dependency.

### 19. What is a reference line in Tableau?

Answer:

A reference line is a static or dynamic line (like an average, constant, or calculated value) added to a chart for comparison.

### 20. What are bins in Tableau?

Answer:

Bins are user-defined buckets of equal-sized ranges, typically created from a measure. Example: creating a histogram by binning Sales into ranges of 1000.

### 21. What are Level of Detail (LOD) expressions?

Answer:

- LOD expressions control the granularity of data aggregation in Tableau. Types include:
- FIXED – Calculates value at a specified dimension level, ignoring view filters.
- INCLUDE – Adds extra dimensions to the view for calculation.
- EXCLUDE – Removes dimensions from the view for calculation.

## 22. What is the difference between Tableau Desktop Personal and Professional editions?

Answer:

- Personal Edition: Can only connect to limited file-based data sources (Excel, CSV, etc.), cannot publish to Tableau Server.
- Professional Edition: Connects to all data sources and allows publishing to Tableau Server/Online.

## 23. What is the difference between Tableau Server and Tableau Online?

Answer:

- Tableau Server: On-premises deployment managed by the organization.
- Tableau Online: Cloud-hosted version managed by Tableau.

## 24. What are Extract Filters in Tableau?

Answer:

Extract filters allow users to filter data before creating an extract, so only relevant data is stored, improving performance.

## 25. What is a dual-axis chart in Tableau?

Answer:

A dual-axis chart combines two measures on the same visualization with separate axes, useful for comparing related metrics (e.g., Sales vs. Profit).

## 26. What are quick table calculations in Tableau?

Answer:

Pre-built calculations applied to measures with one click, such as:

- Running Total
- Percent of Total
- Rank
- Moving Average
- Year-over-Year Growth

## 27. What is the difference between data blending and joins?

Answer:

Joins: Combine data at the database level (row-wise).

Blending: Combines data at the visualization level from multiple data sources (primary & secondary).

## 28. What are actions in Tableau?

Answer:

Actions create interactivity in dashboards, such as:

- Filter Actions: Filter data across multiple sheets.
- Highlight Actions: Highlight related marks.
- URL Actions: Redirect users to a webpage.
- Parameter Actions: Update parameter values dynamically.



### 29. What is a Tableau extract refresh?

Answer:

It updates the data in an extract with the latest values from the original data source. Refresh can be full (reload all data) or incremental (load only new rows).

### 30. What are some best practices for Tableau dashboards?

Answer:

- Use filters and parameters for interactivity.
- Minimize the use of too many charts.
- Optimize extracts for performance.
- Use actions instead of multiple filters.
- Design for the end-user experience.

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