SQL dialects and their uses

In this reading, you will learn more about SQL dialects and some of their different uses. As a quick refresher, **Structured Query Language**, or SQL, is a language used to talk to databases. Learning SQL can be a lot like learning a new language — including the fact that languages usually have different dialects within them. Some database products have their own variant of SQL, and these different varieties of SQL dialects are what help you communicate with each database product.

These dialects will be different from company to company and might change over time if the company moves to another database system. So, a lot of analysts start with Standard SQL and then adjust the dialect they use based on what database they are working with. Standard SQL works with a majority of databases and requires a small number of syntax changes to adapt to other dialects.

As a junior data analyst, it is important to know that there are slight differences between dialects. But by mastering Standard SQL, which is the dialect you will be working with in this program, you will be prepared to use SQL in any database.

More information

You may not need to know every SQL dialect, but it is useful to know that these different dialects exist. If you are interested in learning more about SQL dialects and when they are used, you can check out these resources for more information:

- LearnSQL's blog, **What Is a SQL Dialect, and Which One Should You Learn?**
- Software Testing Help's article, **Differences Between SQL Vs MySQL vs SQL Server**
- Datacamp's blog, **SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL... what's the difference? Where do I start?** Note that there is an error in this blog article. The comparison table incorrectly states that SQlite uses subqueries instead of window functions. Refer to the **SQLite Window Functions** documentation for proper clarification.
- SQL Tutorial's tutorial, **What is SQL**