

## Day 12 SQL Practice – Reflection & Learnings

After diving into movie, genre, and user-related datasets today, I had a mixed experience – some queries felt intuitive, while others challenged my logic and required deeper thinking. Working through different combinations of JOINS, aggregations, and CTEs provided meaningful hands-on exposure.

### Key Learnings & Takeaways

- Learned to write LEFT JOIN queries that preserve all movie records even if no rating exists.
- Practiced using COALESCE to handle NULL values when calculating average ratings.
- Strengthened use of GROUP BY and HAVING clauses to filter on aggregate results.
- Explored nested queries and CTEs (‘WITH’ clause) for advanced ranking logic.
- Question 8 (top-rated movie per genre) was tough – needed to apply window functions with partitioning.
- Question 10 (highest-rated movie per user) was tricky – took time to structure logic for MAX rating with related movie.
- Bonus question was logically easy to understand, but took time to frame JOINS, filters, and groupings properly.
- Improved understanding of when to apply COUNT vs COUNT DISTINCT for cleaner summaries.

*"Some questions may seem hard not because of their complexity, but because they teach you something new. That's where real growth lies."*

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