

SQL - Distinct Keyword

The SQL **DISTINCT** keyword is used in conjunction with the SELECT statement to eliminate all the duplicate records and fetching only unique records.

There may be a situation when you have multiple duplicate records in a table. While fetching such records, it makes more sense to fetch only those unique records instead of fetching duplicate records.

Syntax

The basic syntax of DISTINCT keyword to eliminate the duplicate records is as follows –

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2,.....columnN
FROM table_name
WHERE [condition]
```

Example

Consider the CUSTOMERS table having the following records –

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Ramesh	32	Ahmedabad	2000.00
2	Khilan	25	Delhi	1500.00
3	kaushik	23	Kota	2000.00
4	Chaitali	25	Mumbai	6500.00
5	Hardik	27	Bhopal	8500.00
6	Komal	22	MP	4500.00
7	Muffy	24	Indore	10000.00

First, let us see how the following SELECT query returns the duplicate salary records.

```
SQL> SELECT SALARY FROM CUSTOMERS
      ORDER BY SALARY;
```

This would produce the following result, where the salary (2000) is coming twice which is a duplicate record from the original table.

```
+-----+
| SALARY |
+-----+
| 1500.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 4500.00 |
| 6500.00 |
| 8500.00 |
| 10000.00 |
+-----+
```

Now, let us use the DISTINCT keyword with the above SELECT query and then see the result.

```
SQL> SELECT DISTINCT SALARY FROM CUSTOMERS
      ORDER BY SALARY;
```

This would produce the following result where we do not have any duplicate entry.

```
+-----+
| SALARY |
+-----+
| 1500.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 4500.00 |
| 6500.00 |
| 8500.00 |
| 10000.00 |
+-----+
```