

Comparing Join Methods in pandas

Method	Syntax	Join On	Best For
pd.merge()	pd.merge(df1, df2, on='key', how='inner')	Column values (most flexible)	SQL-style joins, multiple keys
df.join()	df1.join(df2, how='left')	Index values (fast)	Index-based joins, time series alignment
pd.concat()	pd.concat([df1, df2], axis=0)	Position (stack rows/cols)	Combining similar DataFrames

Quick Decision Guide:

Join on columns? -> merge() | Join on index? -> join() | Stack same structure? -> concat()