SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The `SELECT DISTINCT` statement is used to return only distinct (different) values.

Inside a table, a column often contains many duplicate values; and sometimes you only want to list the different (distinct) values.

SELECT DISTINCT Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2, ...
FROM table_name;
```

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22

SELECT Example Without DISTINCT

The following SQL statement selects all (including the duplicates) values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

Example

```
SELECT Country FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

Now, let us use the `SELECT DISTINCT` statement and see the result.

SELECT DISTINCT Examples

The following SQL statement selects only the DISTINCT values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

Example

```
SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

The following SQL statement lists the number of different (distinct) customer countries:

Example

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT Country) FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

Note: The example above will not work in Firefox! Because COUNT(DISTINCT *column_name*) is not supported in Microsoft Access databases. Firefox is using Microsoft Access in our examples.

Here is the workaround for MS Access:

Example

```
SELECT Count(*) AS DistinctCountries
FROM (SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers);
```

Try it Yourself »

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Select all the different values from the `Country` column in the `Customers` table.

```
                    Country FROM Customers;
```

Submit Answer »

[Start the Exercise](#)