

Part - 9

# SQL Basics

## Interview

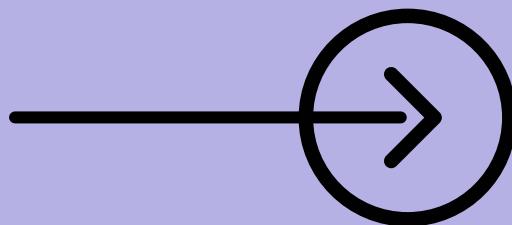
## Questions and Answers...!



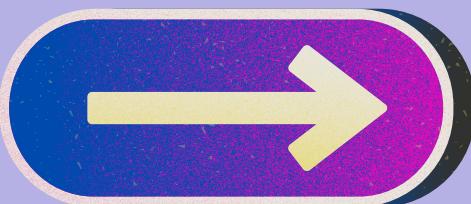
Sharing with  
Counter questions ↑



*krishna kumar*  
@Krishan kumar



**What is the difference  
between DISTINCT and  
GROUP BY?**



# Distinct;

- **Distinct purpose is to remove duplicate rows from the result set. Ensures each row in the result set is unique based on the selected columns.**

**Means:**



```
SELECT DISTINCT column1 FROM table_name;
```



**Let's understand it with a example**

## Example;

→ Suppose you have a list of fruits with duplicates:

[ apple, banana, apple, orange, banana.]



```
SELECT DISTINCT fruit FROM fruits_list;
```

Using DISTINCT will give you a list with no duplicates: apple, banana, orange



What about GROUP BY

# **GROUP BY:**

- **The purpose is to group rows that have the same values in specified columns into summary rows.**  
**Typically used with aggregate functions like COUNT, SUM, AVG, etc.**

**Means:**

```
SELECT column1, COUNT(*)  
FROM table_name GROUP BY column1;
```



**Let's understand it with a example**

## Example;

→ Suppose you have the same list of fruits:

[ **apple, banana, apple, orange, banana.** ]



```
SELECT fruit, COUNT(*)  
FROM fruits_list  
GROUP BY fruit
```

**Using GROUP BY with COUNT will give you the number of each fruit:**

- **apple - 2,**
- **banana - 2,**
- **orange - 1.**



wanna see some  
**Counter Questions**

## **1. When should you use DISTINCT instead of GROUP BY?**

→ **Use DISTINCT when you want to remove duplicate rows from the result set based on one or more columns.**

**DISTINCT** is typically used when you want to return only unique values for the specified columns without any aggregation or grouping.



**Next Question**

## **2. Can you use GROUP BY without an aggregate function? What happens in that case?**

→ Yes, you can use GROUP BY without an aggregate function. In that case, GROUP BY simply returns a single row for each unique combination of values in the grouped columns.

**However, using it without an aggregate function is uncommon, as GROUP BY is primarily used for aggregation.**



**Next Question**

### **3. How does the performance of DISTINCT compare to GROUP BY?**

- **Performance depends on the context, but generally, DISTINCT can be more efficient than GROUP BY when you're only removing duplicates without needing to perform any aggregation.**
- GROUP BY might require additional computation, especially if aggregate functions are involved.**



*Next Question*

## **4. What happens if you apply DISTINCT to a query that already uses GROUP BY?**

→ Applying DISTINCT to a query that uses GROUP BY is redundant

**because GROUP BY already ensures that each group of rows is unique based on the grouped columns.**

**DISTINCT would have no additional effect and could potentially slow down the query.**



## 5. Can you combine DISTINCT with aggregate functions? How would that work?

→ Yes, you can combine DISTINCT with aggregate functions.

For example, **COUNT(DISTINCT column\_name)** counts the number of unique, non-null values in the specified column.

This is useful when you want to apply aggregation only to distinct values in a column.

**CONGRATS!**  
you completed one interview question  
with me,  
can you do me a favour



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