

Part - 8

# Data Retrieval

## Interview

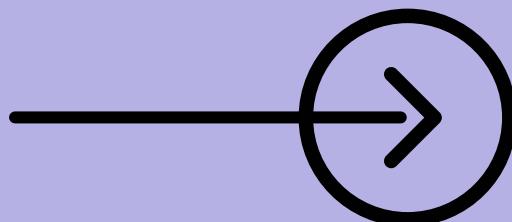
## Questions and Answers...!



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**What are the rules to follow  
when using the UNION  
operator?**



## 1. Number of columns

→ Every **SELECT** statement in a **UNION** query must have the same number of columns.

If the first query returns three columns,

the second one should also return exactly three columns, ensuring consistency.



What should be ensured about data types in a **UNION** query?

## 2. Data types in Union

→ The columns from each **SELECT** statement must have compatible data types.

**For example, if the first column is of VARCHAR type in one query,**

**it must also be VARCHAR or a compatible type in the other query.**



Does the order of columns matter in a UNION query?

## 3.Order of columns

→ Yes, the order of columns must be the same in each **SELECT** statement.

**The first column from each query is combined, then the second, and so on.**



What happens to duplicate records in UNION?

## 4. Duplicate records in UNION

→ By default, UNION removes duplicate rows from the combined result set.

If you want to keep duplicates, you should use UNION ALL instead of just UNION.



Can you use column aliases in all SELECT statements in UNION?

## 5. Column aliases in all SELECT statements

- **No, column aliases should only be defined in the first SELECT statement.**

**These aliases will be applied to the final result of the union.**

- **Example:**

```
SELECT FirstName, LastName FROM Employees  
UNION  
SELECT FirstName, LastName FROM Managers;
```

**This query combines the FirstName and LastName columns from both the Employees and Managers tables, returning only unique rows.**



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Counter Questions



## **1. What is the difference between UNION and UNION ALL?**

- **UNION removes any duplicate rows that appear in the result set,**
- whereas UNION ALL includes all records, even if they are duplicated across the different SELECT queries.**
- UNION ALL can be faster since it doesn't need to check for duplicates.**

**Next Question**



## **2. Can you perform a UNION between tables with different data types in corresponding columns?**

→ **No, you cannot. The data types in corresponding columns across the SELECT queries must be compatible.**

**For instance, if one column is an integer in the first query, the matching column in the second query should also be an integer or a compatible numeric type.**



*Next Question*

### **3. How does the performance of UNION compare to UNION ALL?**

- **UNION ALL is generally faster than UNION because UNION needs to check for and remove duplicates, which requires additional processing. UNION ALL skips this step and directly combines the results.**



*Next Question*

#### **4. Can you use ORDER BY in each SELECT statement of a UNION query?**

→ **No, ORDER BY is only allowed once at the end of the UNION query, after all the SELECT statements have been combined.**

**It cannot be used within individual SELECT queries in the UNION.**



## **5. What happens if the column order is different in the SELECT statements?**

→ If the column order is different between the SELECT statements in a UNION query, the query will fail or return incorrect results because SQL matches columns based on their positions, not names.

**Therefore, the order must be the same in all the queries.**



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