Displaying Data from Multiple Tables Using Joins

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Write `SELECT` statements to access data from more than one table using equijoins and nonequijoins
- Join a table to itself by using a self-join
- View data that generally does not meet a join condition by using `OUTER` joins
- Generate a Cartesian product of all rows from two or more tables

This lesson explains how to obtain data from more than one table. A *join* is used to view information from multiple tables. Therefore, you can *join* tables together to view information from more than one table.

Note: Information about joins is found in the "SQL Queries and Subqueries: Joins" section in *Oracle Database SQL Language Reference* for 19c database.

Lesson Agenda

- Types of `JOINS` and its syntax
- Natural join
- Join with the `USING` Clause
- Join with the `ON` Clause
- Self-join
- Nonequijoins
- `OUTER` join:
  - `LEFT OUTER` join
  - `RIGHT OUTER` join
  - `FULL OUTER` join
- Cartesian product
  - Cross join

Obtaining Data from Multiple Tables

EMPLOYEES

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	200	Whalen	10
2	201	Hartstein	20
3	202	Fay	20
...			
18	174	Abel	80
19	176	Taylor	80
20	178	Grant	(null)

DEPARTMENTS

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	LOCATION_ID
1	10	Administration	1700
2	20	Marketing	1800
3	50	Shipping	1500
4	60	IT	1400
5	80	Sales	2500
6	90	Executive	1700
7	110	Accounting	1700
8	190	Contracting	1700

	EMPLOYEE_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	200	10	Administration
2	201	20	Marketing
3	202	20	Marketing
4	124	50	Shipping
...			
18	205	110	Accounting
19	206	110	Accounting

Sometimes you need to use data from more than one table. In the example in the slide, the report displays data from two separate tables:

- Employee IDs exist in the EMPLOYEES table.
- Department IDs exist in both the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables.
- Department names exist in the DEPARTMENTS table.

To produce the report, you need to link the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables, and access data from both of them.

Types of Joins

Joins that are compliant with the SQL:1999 standard include the following:

- Natural join with the `NATURAL JOIN` clause
- Join with the `USING` Clause
- Join with the `ON` Clause
- `OUTER` joins:
  - `LEFT OUTER JOIN`
  - `RIGHT OUTER JOIN`
  - `FULL OUTER JOIN`
- Cross joins

To join tables, you can use a join syntax that is compliant with the SQL:1999 standard.

Note

- Before the Oracle9*i* release, the join syntax was different from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards. The SQL:1999–compliant join syntax does not offer any performance benefits over the Oracle-proprietary join syntax that existed in the prior releases.
- The following slide discusses the SQL:1999 join syntax.

Joining Tables Using SQL:1999 Syntax

Use a join to query data from more than one table:

```
SELECT   table1.column, table2.column
FROM     table1
[NATURAL JOIN table2] |
[JOIN table2 USING (column_name)] |
[JOIN table2
  ON (table1.column_name = table2.column_name)]|
[LEFT|RIGHT|FULL OUTER JOIN table2
  ON (table1.column_name = table2.column_name)]|
[CROSS JOIN table2];
```

Joining Tables Using SQL:1999 Syntax

- `table1.column` denotes the table and the column from which data is retrieved
- `NATURAL JOIN` joins two tables based on the same column name
- `JOIN table2 USING column_name` performs an equijoin based on the column name
- `JOIN table2 ON table1.column_name = table2.column_name` performs an equijoin based on the condition in the `ON` clause
- `LEFT/RIGHT/FULL OUTER` is used to perform `OUTER` joins
- `CROSS JOIN` returns a Cartesian product from the two tables

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Qualifying Ambiguous Column Names

- Use table prefixes to qualify column names that are in multiple tables.
- Use table prefixes to increase the speed of parsing of the statement .
- Instead of full table name prefixes, use table aliases.
- Table alias gives a table a shorter name:
  - Keeps SQL code smaller, uses less memory
- Use column aliases to distinguish columns that have identical names, but reside in different tables.

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When joining two or more tables, you need to qualify the names of the columns with the table name to avoid ambiguity. Without the table prefixes, the `DEPARTMENT_ID` column in the `SELECT` list could be from either the `DEPARTMENTS` table or the `EMPLOYEES` table. It is necessary to add the table prefix to execute your query. If there are no common column names between the two tables, there is no need to qualify the columns. However, using the table prefix increases the speed of parsing of the statement , because you tell the Oracle server exactly where to find the columns.

However, qualifying column names with table names can be time consuming, particularly if the table names are lengthy. Instead, you can use *table aliases*. Just as a column alias gives a column another name, a table alias gives a table another name. Table aliases help to keep SQL code smaller, therefore, using less memory.

The table name is specified in full, followed by a space, and then the table alias. For example, the `EMPLOYEES` table can be given an alias of `e`, and the `DEPARTMENTS` table an alias of `d`.

Guidelines

- Table aliases can be up to 30 characters in length, but shorter aliases are better than longer ones.
- If a table alias is used for a particular table name in the `FROM` clause, that table alias must be substituted for the table name throughout the `SELECT` statement.

- Table aliases should be meaningful.
- The table alias is valid for only the current `SELECT` statement.

Creating Natural Joins

- You can join tables automatically based on the columns in the two tables that have matching data types and names.
- The `NATURAL JOIN` clause is based on all the columns in the two tables that have the same name.
- It selects rows from the two tables that have equal values in all matched columns.
- If the columns having the same names have different data types, an error is returned.

You can join tables automatically based on the columns in the two tables that have matching data types and names. You do this by using the `NATURAL JOIN` keywords.

Note: The join can happen on only those columns that have the same names and data types in both tables. If the columns have the same name but different data types, the `NATURAL JOIN` syntax causes an error.

Retrieving Records with Natural Joins

```
SELECT employee_id,last_name,department_id,
department_name
from employees NATURAL JOIN departments;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	101	Kochhar	90	Executive
2	102	De Haan	90	Executive
3	104	Ernst	60	IT
4	107	Lorentz	60	IT
5	141	Rajs	50	Shipping
6	142	Davies	50	Shipping
7	143	Matos	50	Shipping
8	144	Vargas	50	Shipping
9	174	Abel	80	Sales
10	176	Taylor	80	Sales
11	202	Fay	20	Marketing
12	206	Gietz	110	Accounting

In the example in the slide, the DEPARTMENTS table is joined to the EMPLOYEES table by the DEPARTMENT_ID column, which is the only column of the same name in both tables. If other common columns were present, the join would have used them all.

Natural Joins with a WHERE Clause

Additional restrictions on a natural join are implemented by using a WHERE clause. The following example limits the rows of output to those with a department ID equal to 20 or 50:

```
SELECT   department_id, department_name,
         location_id, city
FROM     departments
NATURAL  JOIN locations
WHERE    department_id IN (20, 50);
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	LOCATION_ID	CITY
1	20	Marketing	1800	Toronto
2	50	Shipping	1500	South San Francisco

Creating Joins with the `USING` Clause

- Natural joins use all columns with matching names and data types to join the tables.
- If several columns have the same names but the data types do not match, use the `USING` clause to specify the columns for the equijoin.
- Use the `USING` clause to match only one column when more than one column matches.

Natural joins use all columns with matching names and data types to join the tables. The `USING` clause can be used to specify only those columns that should be used for an equijoin.

Joining Column Names

EMPLOYEES

	EMPLOYEE_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	200	10
2	201	20
3	202	20
4	205	110
5	206	110
6	100	90
7	101	90
8	102	90
9	103	60
10	104	60

...

DEPARTMENTS

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	10	Administration
2	20	Marketing
3	50	Shipping
4	60	IT
5	80	Sales
6	90	Executive
7	110	Accounting
8	190	Contracting

Foreign key

Primary key

Equijoins are also called *simple joins* or *inner joins*.

To determine an employee's department name, you compare the value in the DEPARTMENT_ID column in the EMPLOYEES table with the DEPARTMENT_ID values in the DEPARTMENTS table. The relationship between the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables is an *equijoin*; that is, values in the DEPARTMENT_ID column in both the tables must be equal. Frequently, this type of join involves primary and foreign key complements.

Note: Equijoins are also called *simple joins* or *inner joins*.

Retrieving Records with the USING Clause

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name,
       location_id, department_id
FROM   employees JOIN departments
USING (department_id) ;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	LOCATION_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	200	Whalen	1700	10
2	201	Hartstein	1800	20
3	202	Fay	1800	20
4	144	Vargas	1500	50
5	143	Matos	1500	50
6	142	Davies	1500	50
7	141	Rajs	1500	50
8	124	Mourgos	1500	50

...

18	206	Gietz	1700	110
19	205	Higgins	1700	110

In the example in the slide, the DEPARTMENT_ID columns in the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables are joined and thus the LOCATION_ID of the department where an employee works is shown.

Using Table Aliases with the USING Clause

- Do not qualify a column that is used in the USING clause.
- If the same column is used elsewhere in the SQL statement, do not alias it.

```
SELECT l.city, d.department_name
FROM   locations l JOIN departments d
USING  (location_id)
WHERE d.location_id = 1400;
```

```
ORA-25154: column part of USING clause cannot have qualifier
25154. 00000 -  "column part of USING clause cannot have qualifier"
*Cause:    Columns that are used for a named-join (either a NATURAL join
           or a join with a USING clause) cannot have an explicit qualifier.
*Action:   Remove the qualifier.
Error at Line: 4 Column: 6
```

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When joining with the USING clause, you cannot qualify a column that is used in the USING clause itself. Furthermore, if that column is used anywhere in the SQL statement, you cannot alias it. For example, in the query mentioned in the slide, you should not alias the location_id column in the WHERE clause because the column is used in the USING clause.

The columns that are referenced in the USING clause should not have a qualifier (table name or alias) anywhere in the SQL statement. For example, the following statement is valid:

```
SELECT l.city, d.department_name
FROM   locations l JOIN departments d USING (location_id)
WHERE  location_id = 1400;
```

The columns that are common in both the tables, but not used in the USING clause, must be prefixed with a table alias; otherwise, you get the “column ambiguously defined” error.

In the following statement, manager_id is present in both the employees and departments table; if manager_id is not prefixed with a table alias, it gives a “column ambiguously defined” error.

The following statement is valid:

```
SELECT first_name, d.department_name, d.manager_id
FROM   employees e JOIN departments d USING (department_id)
```

```
WHERE  department_id = 50;
```

Creating Joins with the `ON` Clause

- The join condition for the natural join is basically an equijoin of all columns with the same name.
- Use the `ON` clause to specify arbitrary conditions or specify columns to join.
- The join condition is separated from other search conditions.
- The `ON` clause makes code easy to understand.

Use the `ON` clause to specify a join condition. With this, you can specify join conditions separate from any search or filter conditions in the `WHERE` clause.

Retrieving Records with the `ON` Clause

```
SELECT e.employee_id, e.last_name, e.department_id,
       d.department_id, d.location_id
FROM   employees e JOIN departments d
ON     (e.department_id = d.department_id);
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID_1	LOCATION_ID
1	200	Whalen	10	10	1700
2	201	Hartstein	20	20	1800
3	202	Fay	20	20	1800
4	124	Mourgos	50	50	1500
5	144	Vargas	50	50	1500
6	143	Matos	50	50	1500
7	142	Davies	50	50	1500
8	141	Rajs	50	50	1500
9	107	Lorentz	60	60	1400
10	104	Ernst	60	60	1400
11	103	Hunold	60	60	1400

...

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In this example, the `DEPARTMENT_ID` columns in the `EMPLOYEES` and `DEPARTMENTS` table are joined using the `ON` clause. Wherever a department `ID` in the `EMPLOYEES` table equals a department `ID` in the `DEPARTMENTS` table, the row is returned. The table alias is necessary to qualify the matching `column_names`.

You can also use the `ON` clause to join columns that have different names. The parenthesis around the joined columns, as in the example in the slide, `(e.department_id = d.department_id)` is optional. So, even `ON e.department_id = d.department_id` will work.

Note: When you use the Execute Statement icon to run the query, SQL Developer suffixes a '_1' to differentiate between the two `department_ids`.

Creating Three-Way Joins with the ON Clause

A three-way join is a join of three tables.

```
SELECT employee_id, city, department_name
FROM   employees e
JOIN   departments d
ON     d.department_id = e.department_id
JOIN   locations l
ON     d.location_id = l.location_id;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	CITY	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	100	Seattle	Executive
2	101	Seattle	Executive
3	102	Seattle	Executive
4	103	Southlake	IT
5	104	Southlake	IT
6	107	Southlake	IT
7	124	South San Francisco	Shipping
8	141	South San Francisco	Shipping
9	142	South San Francisco	Shipping

...

A three-way join is a join of three tables. The optimizer decides the execution of the join as well as the order. Here, the first join to be performed is EMPLOYEES JOIN DEPARTMENTS. The first join condition can reference columns in EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS but cannot reference columns in LOCATIONS. The second join condition can reference columns from all three tables.

Note: The code example in the slide can also be accomplished with the USING clause:

```
SELECT e.employee_id, l.city, d.department_name
FROM employees e
JOIN departments d
USING (department_id)
JOIN locations l
USING (location_id);
```

Applying Additional Conditions to a Join

Use the AND clause or the WHERE clause to apply additional conditions:

```
SELECT e.employee_id, e.last_name, e.department_id,
       d.department_id, d.location_id
FROM   employees e JOIN departments d
ON     (e.department_id = d.department_id)
AND    e.manager_id = 149 ;
```

Or

```
SELECT e.employee_id, e.last_name, e.department_id,
       d.department_id, d.location_id
FROM   employees e JOIN departments d
ON     (e.department_id = d.department_id)
WHERE   e.manager_id = 149 ;
```


You can apply additional conditions to the join.

The example shown performs a join on the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables and, in addition, displays only employees who have a manager ID of 149. To add additional conditions to the ON clause, you can add AND clauses. Alternatively, you can use a WHERE clause to apply additional conditions.

Both the queries produce the same output

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID_1	LOCATION_ID
1	174	Abel	80	80	2500
2	176	Taylor	80	80	2500

Joining a Table to Itself

Sometimes you need to join a table to itself.

EMPLOYEES (WORKER)

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	MANAGER_ID
200	Whalen	101
201	Hartstein	100
202	Fay	201
205	Higgins	101
206	Gietz	205
100	King	(null)
101	Kochhar	100
102	De Haan	100
103	Hunold	102
104	Ernst	103

...

EMPLOYEES (MANAGER)

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME
200	Whalen
201	Hartstein
202	Fay
205	Higgins
206	Gietz
100	King
101	Kochhar
102	De Haan
103	Hunold
104	Ernst

...

MANAGER_ID in the WORKER table is equal to EMPLOYEE_ID in the MANAGER table.

Sometimes you need to join a table to itself. To find the name of each employee's manager, you need to join the EMPLOYEES table to itself, or perform a self-join. For example, to find the name of Ernst's manager, you need to:

- Find Ernst in the EMPLOYEES table by looking at the LAST_NAME column
- Find the manager number for Ernst by looking at the MANAGER_ID column. Ernst's manager number is 103.
- Find the name of the manager with EMPLOYEE_ID 103 by looking at the LAST_NAME column. Hunold's employee number is 103, so Hunold is Ernst's manager.

In this process, you look in the table twice. The first time you look in the table to find Ernst in the LAST_NAME column and the MANAGER_ID value of 103. The second time you look in the EMPLOYEE_ID column to find 103 and the LAST_NAME column to find Hunold.

Self-Joins Using the `ON` Clause

```
SELECT worker.last_name emp, manager.last_name mgr
FROM   employees worker JOIN employees manager
ON     (worker.manager_id = manager.employee_id);
```

	EMP	MGR
1	Hunold	De Haan
2	Fay	Hartstein
3	Gietz	Higgins
4	Lorentz	Hunold
5	Ernst	Hunold
6	Zlotkey	King
7	Mourgos	King
8	Kochhar	King

...

The `ON` clause can also be used to join columns that have different names, within the same table or in a different table.

The example shown is a self-join of the `EMPLOYEES` table, based on the `EMPLOYEE_ID` and `MANAGER_ID` columns.

Note: The parentheses around the joined columns as in the example in the slide, `(worker.manager_id = manager.employee_id)` is optional. So, even `ON worker.manager_id = manager.employee_id` will work.

Non-equijoins

A non-equijoin is a join condition containing something other than an equality operator.

The relationship between the EMPLOYEES table and the JOB_GRADES table is an example of a non-equijoin.

EMPLOYEES

	LAST_NAME	SALARY
1	Whalen	4400
2	Hartstein	13000
3	Fay	6000
4	Higgins	12000
5	Gietz	8300
6	King	24000
7	Kochhar	17000
8	De Haan	17000
9	Hunold	9000
10	Ernst	6000
...		
19	Taylor	8600
20	Grant	7000

JOB_GRADES

	GRADE_LEVEL	LOWEST_SAL	HIGHEST_SAL
1	A	1000	2999
2	B	3000	5999
3	C	6000	9999
4	D	10000	14999
5	E	15000	24999
6	F	25000	40000

The JOB_GRADES table defines the LOWEST_SAL and HIGHEST_SAL range of values for each GRADE_LEVEL. Therefore, the GRADE_LEVEL column can be used to assign grades to each employee.

A nonequijoin is a join condition containing something other than an equality operator.

The relationship between the EMPLOYEES table and the JOB_GRADES table is an example of a nonequijoin. The SALARY column in the EMPLOYEES table ranges between the values in the LOWEST_SAL and HIGHEST_SAL columns of the JOB_GRADES table. Therefore, each employee can be graded based on their salary. The relationship is obtained using an operator other than the equality (=) operator.

Retrieving Records with Nonequijoins

```
SELECT e.last_name, e.salary, j.grade_level
FROM   employees e JOIN job_grades j
ON     e.salary
       BETWEEN j.lowest_sal AND j.highest_sal;
```

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	GRADE_LEVEL
1	Vargas	2500	A
2	Matos	2600	A
3	Davies	3100	B
4	Rajs	3500	B
5	Lorentz	4200	B
6	Whalen	4400	B
7	Mourgos	5800	B
8	Ernst	6000	C
9	Fay	6000	C
10	Grant	7000	C

...

The example in the slide creates a nonequijoin to evaluate an employee's salary grade. The salary must be *between* any pair of the low and high salary ranges.

It is important to note that all employees appear exactly once when this query is executed. No employee is repeated in the list. There are two reasons for this:

- None of the rows in the `JOB_GRADES` table contain grades that overlap. That is, the salary value for an employee can lie only between the low salary and high salary values of one of the rows in the salary grade table.
- All of the employees' salaries lie within the limits provided by the job grade table. That is, no employee earns less than the lowest value contained in the `LOWEST_SAL` column or more than the highest value contained in the `HIGHEST_SAL` column.

Note: Other conditions (such as `<=` and `>=`) can be used, but `BETWEEN` is the simplest. Remember to specify the low value first and the high value last when using the `BETWEEN` condition. The Oracle server translates the `BETWEEN` condition to a pair of `AND` conditions. Therefore, using `BETWEEN` has no performance benefits, but should be used only for logical simplicity.

Table aliases have been specified in the slide example for performance reasons, not because of possible ambiguity.

Returning Records with No Direct Match Using `OUTER` Joins

DEPARTMENTS

	DEPARTMENT_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	Administration	10
2	Marketing	20
3	Shipping	50
4	IT	60
5	Sales	80
6	Executive	90
7	Accounting	110
8	Contracting	190

There are no employees in department 190.

Equijoin with EMPLOYEES

	DEPARTMENT_ID	LAST_NAME
1	10	Whalen
2	20	Hartstein
3	20	Fay
4	110	Higgins
5	110	Gietz
6	90	King
7	90	Kochhar
8	90	De Haan
9	60	Hunold
10	60	Ernst

...

18	80	Abel
19	80	Taylor

Employee "Grant" has not been assigned a department ID.

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If a row does not satisfy a join condition, the row does not appear in the query result.

In the slide example, a simple equijoin condition is used on the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables to return the result on the right. The result set does not contain the following:

- Department ID 190, because there are no employees with that department ID recorded in the EMPLOYEES table
- The employee with the last name of Grant, because this employee has not been assigned a department ID

To return the department record that does not have any employees, or employees that do not have an assigned department, you can use an OUTER join.

INNER Versus OUTER Joins

- In SQL:1999, the join of two tables returning only matched rows is called an `INNER` join.
- A join between two tables that returns the results of the `INNER` join as well as the unmatched rows from the left (or right) table is called a left (or right) `OUTER` join.
- A join between two tables that returns the results of an `INNER` join as well as the results of a left and right join is a full `OUTER` join.

Joining tables with the `NATURAL JOIN`, `USING`, or `ON` clauses results in an `INNER` join. Any unmatched rows are not displayed in the output. To return the unmatched rows, you can use an `OUTER` join. An `OUTER` join returns all rows that satisfy the join condition and also returns some or all of those rows from one table for which no rows from the other table satisfy the join condition.

There are three types of `OUTER` joins:

- `LEFT OUTER`
- `RIGHT OUTER`
- `FULL OUTER`

LEFT OUTER JOIN

This query retrieves all the rows in the EMPLOYEES table, which is the left table, even if there is no match in the DEPARTMENTS table.

```
SELECT e.last_name, e.department_id, d.department_name
FROM   employees e LEFT OUTER JOIN departments d
ON    (e.department_id = d.department_id) ;
```

	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	Whalen	10	Administration
2	Fay	20	Marketing
3	Hartstein	20	Marketing
4	Vargas	50	Shipping
5	Matos	50	Shipping
...			
16	Kochhar	90	Executive
17	King	90	Executive
18	Gietz	110	Accounting
19	Higgins	110	Accounting
20	Grant	(null)	(null)

RIGHT OUTER JOIN

This query retrieves all the rows in the DEPARTMENTS table, which is the table at the right, even if there is no match in the EMPLOYEES table.

```
SELECT e.last_name, d.department_id, d.department_name
FROM   employees e RIGHT OUTER JOIN departments d
ON     (e.department_id = d.department_id) ;
```

	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	Whalen	10	Administration
2	Hartstein	20	Marketing
3	Fay	20	Marketing
4	Davies	50	Shipping
5	Vargas	50	Shipping
6	Rajs	50	Shipping
7	Mourgos	50	Shipping
8	Matos	50	Shipping

...

18	Higgins	110	Accounting
19	Gietz	110	Accounting
20	(null)	190	Contracting

FULL OUTER JOIN

This query retrieves all rows in the EMPLOYEES table, even if there is no match in the DEPARTMENTS table. It also retrieves all rows in the DEPARTMENTS table, even if there is no match in the EMPLOYEES table.

```
SELECT e.last_name, d.department_id, d.department_name
FROM   employees e FULL OUTER JOIN departments d
ON    (e.department_id = d.department_id) ;
```

	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	King	90	Executive
2	Kochhar	90	Executive
3	De Haan	90	Executive
4	Hunold	60	IT

...

15	Grant	(null)	(null)
16	Whalen	10	Administration
17	Hartstein	20	Marketing
18	Fay	20	Marketing
19	Higgins	110	Accounting
20	Gietz	110	Accounting
21	(null)	190	Contracting

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Cartesian Products

- A Cartesian product is formed when:
  - A join condition is omitted
  - A join condition is invalid
  - All rows in the first table are joined to all rows in the second table
- A Cartesian product tends to generate a large number of rows and the result is rarely useful.
- You should, therefore, always include a valid join condition unless you have a specific need to combine all rows from all tables.
- Cartesian products are useful for some tests when you need to generate a large number of rows to simulate a reasonable amount of data.

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When a join condition is invalid or omitted completely, the result is a *Cartesian product*, in which all combinations of rows are displayed. All rows in the first table are joined to all rows in the second table.

Generating a Cartesian Product

EMPLOYEES (20 rows)

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	200	Whalen	10
2	201	Hartstein	20
3	202	Fay	20
4	205	Higgins	110
...			
19	176	Taylor	80
20	178	Grant	(null)

DEPARTMENTS (8 rows)

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	LOCATION_ID
1	10	Administration	1700
2	20	Marketing	1800
3	50	Shipping	1500
4	60	IT	1400
5	80	Sales	2500
6	90	Executive	1700
7	110	Accounting	1700
8	190	Contracting	1700

Cartesian product:
20 x 8 = 160 rows

	EMPLOYEE_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID	LOCATION_ID
1	200	10	1700
2	201	20	1700
...			
21	200	10	1800
22	201	20	1800
...			
159	176	80	1700
160	178	(null)	1700

A Cartesian product is generated if a join condition is omitted. The example in the slide displays the employee last name and the department name from the EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTS tables. Because no join condition was specified, all rows (20 rows) from the EMPLOYEES table are joined with all rows (8 rows) in the DEPARTMENTS table, thereby generating 160 rows in the output.

Creating Cross Joins

- The `CROSS JOIN` clause produces the cross-product of two tables.
- This is also called a Cartesian product between the two tables.

```
SELECT last_name, department_name
FROM   employees
CROSS JOIN departments ;
```

	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_NAME
1	Abel	Administration
2	Davies	Administration
3	De Haan	Administration
4	Ernst	Administration
5	Fay	Administration

...

158	Vargas	Contracting
159	Whalen	Contracting
160	Zlotkey	Contracting

The example in the slide produces a Cartesian product of the `EMPLOYEES` and `DEPARTMENTS` tables.

The `CROSS JOIN` technique can be applied to many situations usefully. For example, to return total labor cost by office by month, even if month X has no labor cost, you can do a cross join of Offices with a table of all Months.

It is a good practice to explicitly state `CROSS JOIN` in your `SELECT` when you intend to create a Cartesian product. Therefore, it is very clear that you intend for this to happen and it is not the result of missing joins.

Quiz

If you join a table to itself, what kind of join are you using?

a. Nonequijoins
b. Left `OUTER` join
c. Right `OUTER` join
d. Full `OUTER` join
e. Self joins
f. Natural joins
g. Cartesian products

Answer: e

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to use joins to display data from multiple tables by using:

- Equijoins
- Nonequijoins
- OUTER joins
- Self-joins
- Cross joins
- Natural joins
- Full (or two-sided) OUTER joins

There are multiple ways to join tables.

Types of Joins

- Equijoins
- Nonequijoins
- OUTER joins
- Self-joins
- Cross joins
- Natural joins
- Full (or two-sided) OUTER joins

Cartesian Products

A Cartesian product results in the display of all combinations of rows. This is done by either omitting the WHERE clause or specifying the CROSS JOIN clause.

Table Aliases

- Table aliases speed up database access.
- Table aliases can help to keep SQL code smaller by conserving memory.

- Table aliases are sometimes mandatory to avoid column ambiguity.