

## Comparison: PRIMARY KEY vs UNIQUE NOT NULL

Aspect	PRIMARY KEY	UNIQUE + NOT NULL
NULL values	Not allowed (by default)	Not allowed (because of NOT NULL)
Uniqueness	Enforced automatically	Enforced by UNIQUE constraint
Number per table	Only 1 allowed	Multiple allowed
Index	Creates implicit unique index	Creates unique index
Role	Official identifier for the row	Alternative candidate key
Semantics	Declares main identifier for entity	Ensures uniqueness but not the main key

**Conclusion:** Technically, PRIMARY KEY and UNIQUE NOT NULL behave very similarly, but logically PRIMARY KEY is the main identifier of a row while UNIQUE NOT NULL represents alternative candidate keys.

**Notes:** 1) A table can have only one PRIMARY KEY but multiple UNIQUE NOT NULL constraints. 2) Both create unique indexes to enforce uniqueness. 3) Use PRIMARY KEY for the official row identifier and UNIQUE NOT NULL for additional unique constraints.