What is JOIN?

A **JOIN** in SQL is used to combine rows from two or more tables based on a related column between them.

Types of JOINs

- **1. INNER JOIN** \rightarrow Returns only matching rows.
- **2. LEFT JOIN** (or LEFT OUTER JOIN) \rightarrow Returns all rows from the left table + matching rows from the right table.
- **3. RIGHT JOIN** (or RIGHT OUTER JOIN) \rightarrow Returns all rows from the right table + matching rows from the left table.
- **4. FULL JOIN** (or FULL OUTER JOIN) \rightarrow Returns all rows when there is a match in one of the tables.

Example Scenario

We have two tables:

Students Table

StudentID Name Class

1	Amit	10
2	Priya	10

3 Rohan 11

4 Neha 12

Marks Table

MarkID StudentID Subject Marks

101	1	Math 85
102	2	Science 90
103	3	Math 78
104	5	English 88

☐ INNER JOIN (only matching StudentID)

SELECT s. StudentID, s. Name, m. Subject, m. MarksFROM Students sINNER JOIN Marks mON s. StudentID = m. StudentID;

Output:

StudentID Name Subject Marks

- 1 Amit Math 85
- 2 Priya Science 90
- 3 Rohan Math 78

(StudentID = 5 in Marks has no match, so it's excluded.)

2 LEFT JOIN (all students, even if no marks)

SELECT s. StudentID, s. Name, m. Subject, m. MarksFROM Students sLEFT JOIN Marks mON s. StudentID = m. StudentID;

Output:

StudentID Name Subject Marks

- 1 Amit Math 85
- 2 Priya Science 90
- 3 Rohan Math 78
- 4 Neha NULL NULL

(Neha has no marks → NULL returned.)

3 RIGHT JOIN (all marks, even if no student exists)

SELECT s. StudentID, s. Name, m. Subject, m. MarksFROM Students sRIGHT JOIN Marks mon s. StudentID = m. StudentID;

Output:

StudentID Name Subject Marks

1 Amit Math 85 2 Priya Science 90 3 Rohan Math 78 NULL NULL English 88

(MarkID 104 belongs to StudentID=5, but that student does not exist in Students table → NULL returned.)

☑ FULL OUTER JOIN (all students + all marks)

SELECT s. StudentID, s. Name, m. Subject, m. MarksFROM Students sFULL OUTER JOIN Marks mON s. StudentID = m. StudentID;

Output:

StudentID Name Subject Marks

- 1 Amit Math 85
- 2 Priya Science 90
- 3 Rohan Math 78
- 4 Neha NULL NULL
- NULL NULL English 88