According to Coronel and Morris, a view is a virtual table, saved as an object in the database, that is based on a SELECT query (2019, 8.5). There are several special characteristics of a view that are useful. The first special characteristic is the ability to be called in SQL statements in place of a table name. Views are updated dynamically, by this I mean, that every time you call on a view it refreshes so it has the most recent updates from an tables that it is associated with. The previous characteristic leads well into views being great for the basis of reports. Lastly, views can provide additional security for sensitive information.

Views do have several limitations as well though. In situations such as subqueries and joins, a view cannot update. A view may not be useable any longer if a table associated with it is dropped. Lastly, because a view is not a table, it cannot be indexed.

One practical example for a view would be an employee directory. An assistant may need to be able to locate the department in which a specific person is in, but certainly does not need all of the data associated with that employee, especially sensitive data like social security or drivers license numbers.

Coronel, C., & Morris, S. (2019). [*Database systems: Design, implementation, and management*](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/74798/modules/items/3783232) (13th ed.). Retrieved from https://www.vitalsource.com