**SQL vs NoSQL**

| **Feature** | **SQL (Relational DB)** | **NoSQL (Non-relational DB)** |
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| **Data Model** | Tables (rows & columns) | Documents, Key-Value, Graph, Column-based |
| **Schema** | Fixed schema (defined up front) | Dynamic/flexible schema |
| **Examples** | MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, MS SQL Server | MongoDB, Cassandra, Redis, CouchDB, DynamoDB |
| **Query Language** | SQL (Structured Query Language) | Varies (MongoDB uses JSON-like queries) |
| **Scalability** | Vertically scalable (add more CPU/RAM) | Horizontally scalable (add more machines) |
| **Joins** | Supports JOINs (complex queries across tables) | Limited or no JOINs (denormalized data) |
| **Transactions** | Strong ACID compliance | Varies (some support ACID, others eventual consistency) |
| **Use Case** | Structured data, complex queries, strict rules | Large-scale, unstructured or semi-structured data |
| **Best For** | Banking, CRM, ERP | Real-time analytics, IoT, social apps, caching |