8

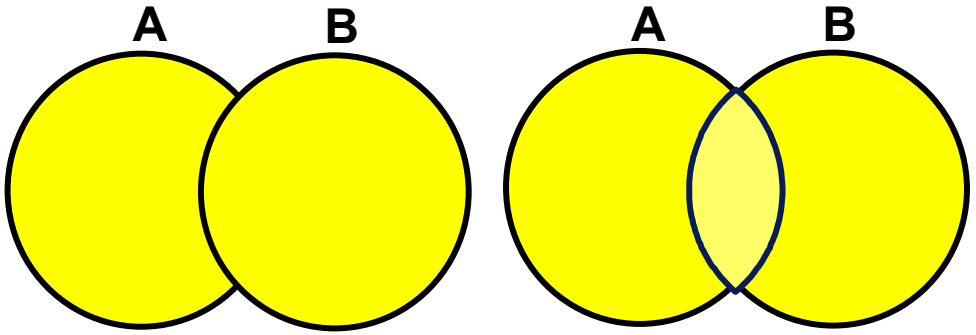
Using the Set Operators

Objectives

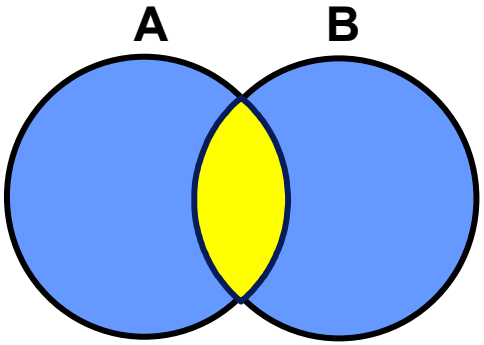
After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe set operators
- Use a set operator to combine multiple queries into a single query
- Control the order of rows returned

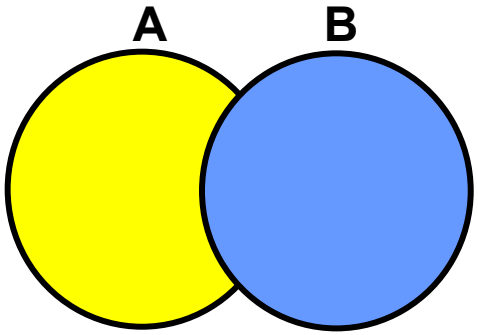
Set Operators



UNION/UNION ALL



INTERSECT



MINUS

Set Operator Guidelines

- The expressions in the `SELECT` lists must match in number.
- The data type of each column in the second query must match the data type of its corresponding column in the first query.
- Parentheses can be used to alter the sequence of execution.
- `ORDER BY` clause can appear only at the very end of the statement.

Oracle Server and Set Operators

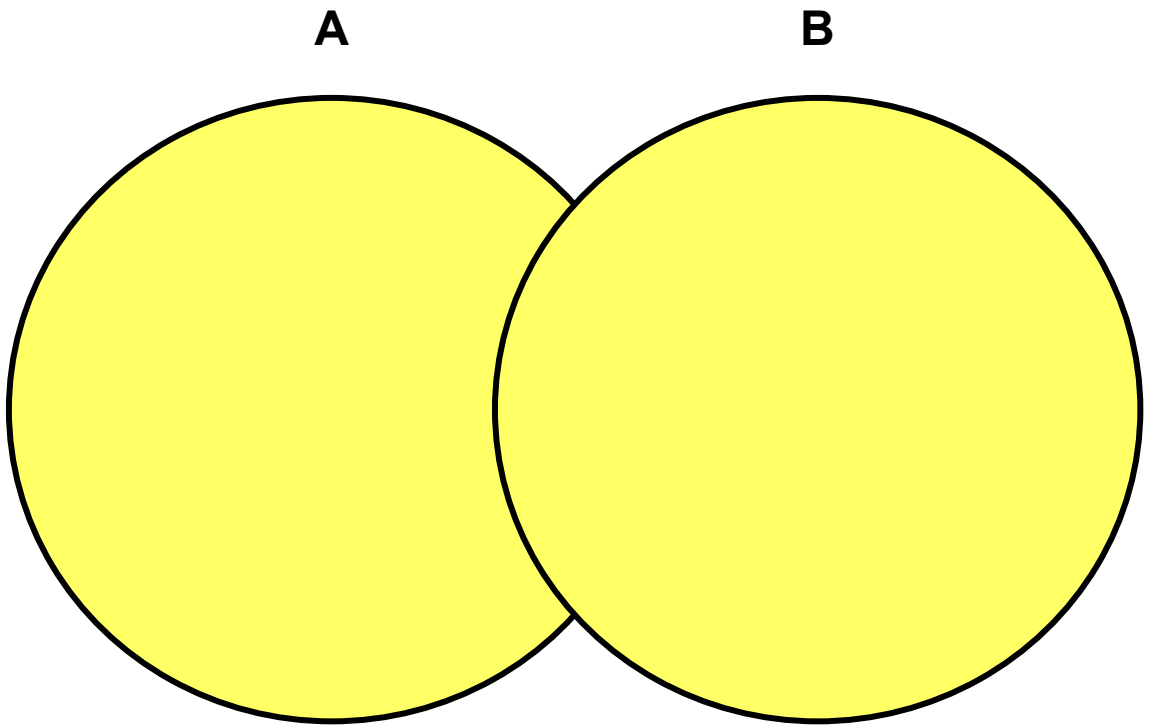
- Duplicate rows are automatically eliminated except in `UNION ALL`.
- Column names from the first query appear in the result.
- The output is sorted in ascending order by default except in `UNION ALL`.

Tables Used in This Lesson

The tables used in this lesson are:

- `EMPLOYEES`: Provides details regarding all current employees
- `JOB_HISTORY`: Records the details of the start date and end date of the former job, and the job identification number and department when an employee switches jobs

UNION Operator



The UNION operator returns rows from both queries after eliminating duplications.

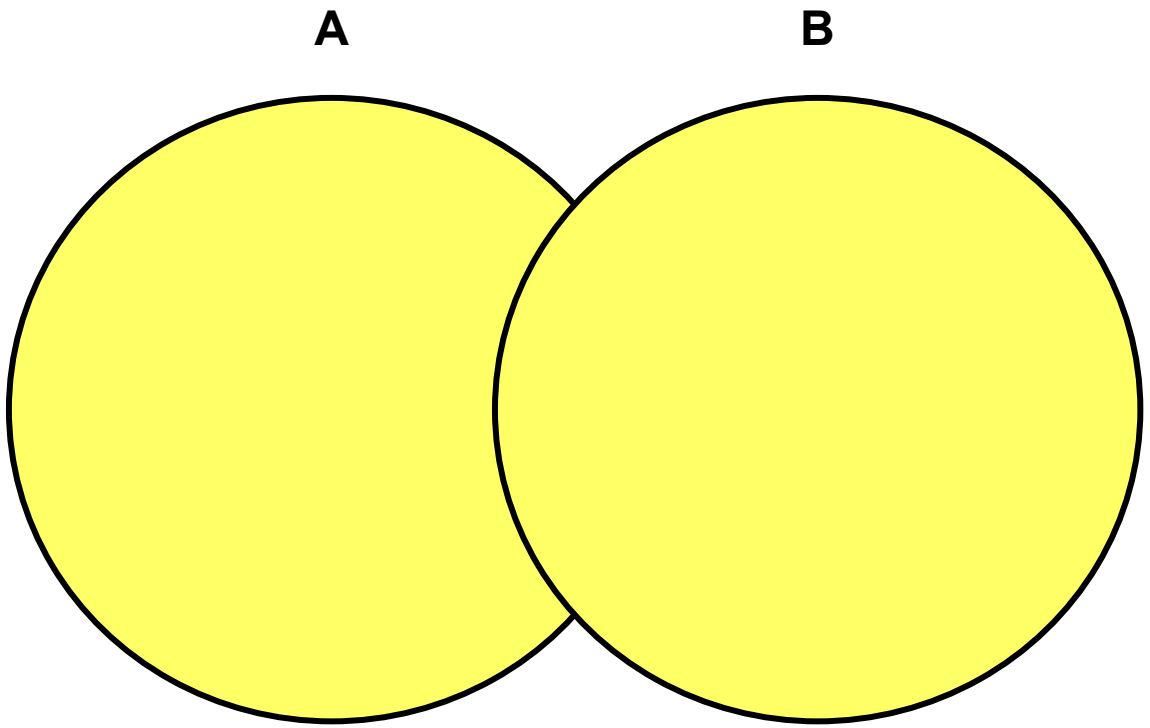
Using the UNION Operator

Display the current and previous job details of all employees. Display each employee only once.

```
SELECT employee_id, job_id
FROM   employees
UNION
SELECT employee_id, job_id
FROM   job_history;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	JOB_ID
1	100	AD_PRES
2	101	AC_ACCOUNT
...		
22	200	AC_ACCOUNT
23	200	AD_ASST
...		
27	205	AC_MGR
28	206	AC_ACCOUNT

UNION ALL Operator



The UNION ALL operator returns rows from both queries, including all duplications.

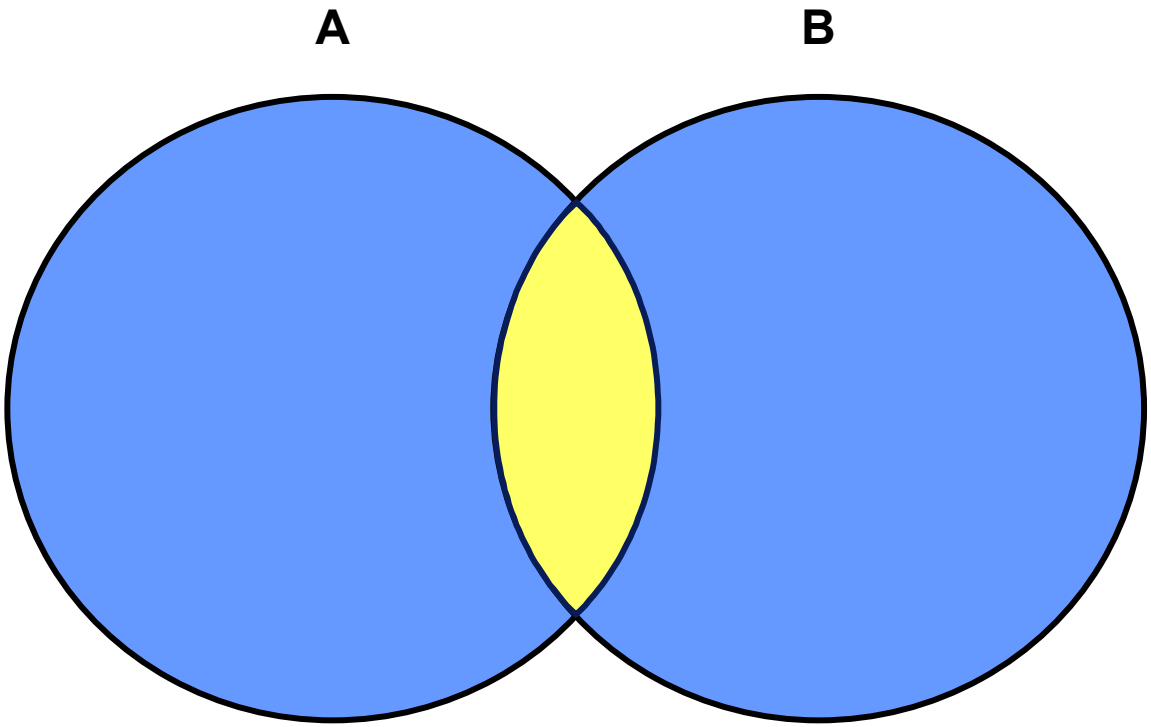
Using the UNION ALL Operator

Display the current and previous departments of all employees.

```
SELECT employee_id, job_id, department_id
FROM   employees
UNION ALL
SELECT employee_id, job_id, department_id
FROM   job_history
ORDER BY  employee_id;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	JOB_ID	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	100	AD_PRES	90
...			
17	149	SA_MAN	80
18	174	SA_REP	80
19	176	SA_REP	80
20	176	SA_MAN	80
21	176	SA_REP	80
22	178	SA_REP	(null)
23	200	AD_ASST	10
...			
30	206	AC_ACCOUNT	110

INTERSECT Operator



The INTERSECT operator returns rows that are common to both queries.

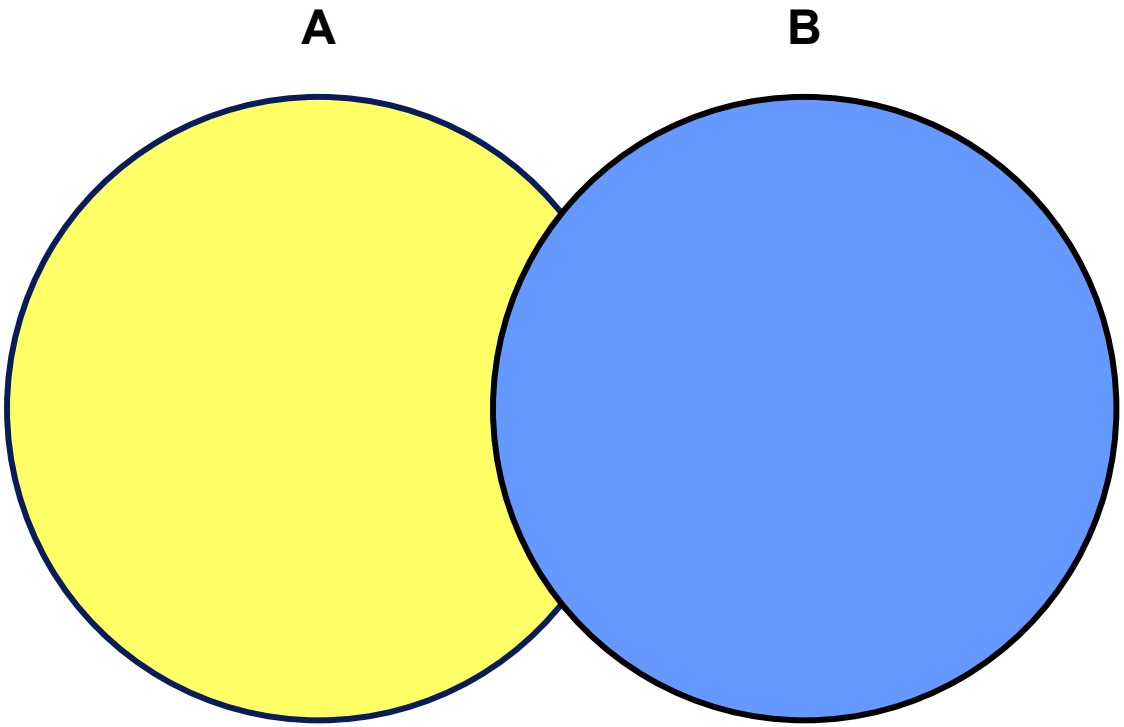
Using the INTERSECT Operator

Display the employee IDs and job IDs of those employees who currently have a job title that is the same as their previous one (that is, they changed jobs but have now gone back to doing the same job they did previously).

```
SELECT employee_id, job_id
FROM   employees
INTERSECT
SELECT employee_id, job_id
FROM   job_history;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	JOB_ID
1	176	SA_REP
2	200	AD_ASST

MINUS Operator



The MINUS operator returns all the distinct rows selected by the first query, but not present in the second query result set.

Using the MINUS Operator

Display the employee IDs of those employees who have not changed their jobs even once.

```
SELECT employee_id
FROM   employees
MINUS
SELECT employee_id
FROM   job_history;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID
1	100
2	103
3	104
...	
13	202
14	205
15	206

Matching the SELECT Statements

- Using the UNION operator, display the location ID, department name, and the state where it is located.
- You must match the data type (using the TO_CHAR function or any other conversion functions) when columns do not exist in one or the other table.

```
SELECT location_id, department_name "Department",
   TO_CHAR(NULL) "Warehouse location"
FROM departments
UNION
SELECT location_id, TO_CHAR(NULL) "Department",
   state_province
FROM locations;
```

Matching the SELECT Statement: Example

Using the UNION operator, display the employee ID, job ID, and salary of all employees.

```
SELECT employee_id, job_id,salary
FROM   employees
UNION
SELECT employee_id, job_id,0
FROM   job_history;
```

	EMPLOYEE_ID	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	100	AD_PRES	24000
2	101	AC_ACCOUNT	0
3	101	AC_MGR	0
4	101	AD_VP	17000
5	102	AD_VP	17000
...			
29	205	AC_MGR	12000
30	206	AC_ACCOUNT	8300

Using the ORDER BY Clause in Set Operations

- The ORDER BY clause can appear only once at the end of the compound query.
- Component queries cannot have individual ORDER BY clauses.
- The ORDER BY clause recognizes only the columns of the first SELECT query.
- By default, the first column of the first SELECT query is used to sort the output in an ascending order.

Quiz

Identify the set operator guidelines.

1. The expressions in the `SELECT` lists must match in number.
2. Parentheses may not be used to alter the sequence of execution.
3. The data type of each column in the second query must match the data type of its corresponding column in the first query.
4. The `ORDER BY` clause can be used only once in a compound query, unless a `UNION ALL` operator is used.

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to use:

- `UNION` to return all distinct rows
- `UNION ALL` to return all rows, including duplicates
- `INTERSECT` to return all rows that are shared by both queries
- `MINUS` to return all distinct rows that are selected by the first query, but not by the second
- `ORDER BY` only at the very end of the statement