

USAGE FUNNELS

What is a Funnel?

In the world of marketing analysis, “funnel” is a word you will hear time and time again.

A **funnel** is a marketing model which illustrates the theoretical customer journey towards the purchase of a product or service. Oftentimes, we want to track how many users complete a series of steps and know which steps have the most number of users giving up.

Some examples include:

- Answering each part of a 5 question survey on customer satisfaction
- Clicking “Continue” on each step of a set of 5 onboarding modals
- Browsing a selection of products → Viewing a shopping cart → Making a purchase
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Generally, we want to know the total number of users in each step of the funnel, as well as the percent of users who complete each step.

Throughout this lesson, we will be working with data from a fictional company called Mattresses and More. Using SQL, you can dive into complex funnels and event flow analysis to gain insights into their users’ behavior.



Build a Funnel From a Single Table

Mattresses and More users were asked to answer a five-question survey:

1. "How likely are you to recommend Mattresses and More to a friend?"
2. "Which Mattresses and More location do you shop at?"
3. "How old are you?"
4. "What is your gender?"
5. "What is your annual household income?"

However, not every user finished the survey!

We want to build a funnel to analyze if certain questions prompted users to stop working on the survey.

We will be using a table called `survey_responses` with the following columns:

- `question_text` - the survey question
- `user_id` - the user identifier
- `response` - the user answer

1. Start by getting a feel for the `survey_responses` table. Select all columns for the first 10 records from `survey_responses`.

```
select *  
from survey_responses  
limit 10;
```

2. Delete your previous query. Let's build our first basic funnel! Count the number of distinct `user_id` who answered each `question_text`. You can do this by using a simple `GROUP BY` command. *What is the number of responses for each question?*

```
select question_text, count(question_text) as responses  
from survey_responses  
where question_text is not null  
group by 1  
order by 2 desc  
limit 10;
```

Survey Result

We could use SQL to calculate the percent change between each question, but it's just as easy to analyze these manually with a calculator or in a spreadsheet program like Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets.

If we divide the number of people completing each step by the number of people completing the previous step:

Question	Percent Completed this Question
1	100%
2	95%
3	82%
4	95%
5	74%

We see that Questions 2 and 4 have high completion rates, but Questions 3 and 5 have lower rates. This suggests that age and household income are more sensitive questions that people might be reluctant to answer!

Compare Funnels For A/B Tests

Mattresses and More has an onboarding workflow for new users of their website. It uses modal pop-ups to welcome users and show them important features of the site like:

1. Welcome to Mattresses and More!
2. Browse our bedding selection
3. Select items to add to your cart
4. View your cart by clicking on the icon
5. Press 'Buy Now!' when you're ready to checkout

The Product team at Mattresses and More has created a new design for the pop-ups that they believe will lead more users to complete the workflow.

They've set up an A/B test where:

- 50% of users view the original **control** version of the pop-ups
- 50% of users view the new **variant** version of the pop-ups

Eventually, we'll want to answer the question: *How is the funnel different between the two groups?*

We will be using a table called **onboarding_modals** with the following columns:

- **user_id** - the user identifier
- **modal_text** - the modal step
- **user_action** - the user response (Close Modal or Continue)
- **ab_group** - the version (control or variant)

1. Start by getting a feel for the **onboarding_modals** table. Select all columns for the first 10 records from **onboarding_modals**.

```
select *  
from onboarding_modals  
limit 10;
```

2. Delete your previous code. Using **GROUP BY**, count the number of distinct **user_id**'s for each value of **modal_text**. This will tell us the number of users completing each step of the funnel. This time, sort **modal_text** so that your funnel is in order.

```
select modal_text, count(user_id) as responses  
from onboarding_modals  
group by 1  
order by 2 desc;
```

3. Delete your previous code. We can use a `CASE` statement within our `COUNT()` aggregate so that we only count `user_ids` whose `ab_group` is equal to 'control':

```
SELECT modal_text,  
       COUNT(DISTINCT CASE  
         WHEN ab_group = 'control' THEN user_id  
         END) AS 'control_clicks'  
FROM onboarding_modals  
GROUP BY 1  
ORDER BY 1;
```

Paste this code into the code editor and see what happens.

4. Add an additional column to your previous query that counts the number of clicks from the variant group and alias it as 'variant_clicks'.

```
SELECT modal_text,  
       COUNT(DISTINCT CASE  
         WHEN ab_group = 'control' THEN user_id  
         END) AS 'control_clicks',  
       COUNT(DISTINCT CASE  
         WHEN ab_group = 'variant' THEN user_id  
         END) AS 'variant_clicks'  
FROM onboarding_modals  
GROUP BY 1  
ORDER BY 1;
```

A/B Tests Results

Incredible! After some quick math:

Modal	Control Percent	Variant Percent
1	100%	100%
2	60%	79%
3	80%	85%
4	80%	80%
5	85%	85%

- During Modal 2, `variant` has a 79% completion rate compared to `control`'s 60%
- During Modal 3, `variant` has a 85% completion rate compared to `control`'s 80%
- All other steps have the same level of completion

This result tells us that the `variant` has greater completion!

Build a Funnel from Multiple Tables 1

Scenario: Mattresses and More sells bedding essentials from their e-commerce store. Their purchase funnel is:

1. The user browses products and adds them to their cart
2. The user proceeds to the checkout page
3. The user enters credit card information and makes a purchase

Three steps! Simple and easy.

As a sales analyst, you want to examine data from the shopping days before Christmas. As Christmas approaches, you suspect that customers become more likely to purchase items in their cart (i.e., they move from window shopping to buying presents).

The data for Mattresses and More is spread across several tables:

- **browse** - each row in this table represents an item that a user has added to his shopping cart
- **checkout** - each row in this table represents an item in a cart that has been checked out
- **purchase** - each row in this table represents an item that has been purchased

1. Let's examine each table. Note that each user has multiple rows representing the different items that she has placed in her cart.

```
SELECT *  
FROM browse  
LIMIT 5;  
  
SELECT *  
FROM checkout  
LIMIT 5;  
  
SELECT *  
FROM purchase  
LIMIT 5;
```

What are the column names in each table?

Build a Funnel from Multiple Tables 2

First, we want to combine the information from the three tables (**browse**, **checkout**, **purchase**) into one table with the following schema:

browser_date	user_id	is_checkout	is_purchase
2017-12-20	6a7617321513	True	False
2017-12-20	022d871cdcde	False	False
...

Each row will represent a single user:

- If the user has any entries in `checkout`, then `is_checkout` will be True.
- If the user has any entries in `purchase`, then `is_purchase` will be True.

If we use an `INNER JOIN` to create this table, we'll lose information from any customer who does not have a row in the `checkout` or `purchase` table.

Therefore, we'll need to use a series of `LEFT JOIN` commands.

1. Start by selecting all rows (*) from the `LEFT JOIN` of:

- `browse` (aliased as `b`)
- `checkout` (aliased as `c`)
- `purchase` (aliased as `p`)

Be sure to use this order to make sure that we get all of the rows.

`LIMIT` your results to the first 50 so that it loads quickly.

```
select *
from browse as 'b'
left join checkout as 'c'
on c.user_id = b.user_id
left join purchase as 'p'
on p.user_id = c.user_id
limit 50;
```

2. But we don't want all of these columns in the result!

Instead of selecting all columns using `*`, let's select these four:

- `DISTINCT b.browse_date`
- `b.user_id`
- `c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout'`
- `p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'`

Edit your query so that you select these columns.

```
select DISTINCT b.browse_date, b.user_id,
c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',
p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'
from browse as 'b'
left join checkout as 'c'
on c.user_id = b.user_id
left join purchase as 'p'
on p.user_id = c.user_id
limit 50;
```

Build a Funnel from Multiple Tables 3

We've created a new table that combined all of our data:

browser_date	user_id	is_checkout	is_purchase
2017-12-20	6a7617321513	1	0
2017-12-20	022d871cdcde	0	0
...

Here, `1` represents True and `0` represents False.

Once we have the data in this format, we can analyze it in several ways.

Let's put the whole thing in a `WITH` statement so that we can continue on building our query.

We will give the temporary table the name `funnels`:

```
WITH funnels AS (  
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browser_date,  
    b.user_id,  
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',  
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'  
  FROM browse AS 'b'  
  LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'  
    ON c.user_id = b.user_id  
  LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'  
    ON p.user_id = c.user_id)  
SELECT _____  
_____  
_____;
```

Notice how the whole previous query is put inside the parentheses `()`.

Let's query from this `funnels` table and calculate overall conversion rates.

1. First, add a column that counts the total number of rows in `funnels`. Alias this column as 'num_browse'. This is the number of users in the "browse" step of the funnel.

```
WITH funnels AS (  
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browser_date,  
    b.user_id,  
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',  
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'  
  FROM browse AS 'b'  
  LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'  
    ON c.user_id = b.user_id  
  LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'  
    ON p.user_id = c.user_id)  
SELECT count(*)  
from funnels;
```

3. Second, add another column that sums the `is_checkout` in `funnels`. Alias this column as `'num_checkout'`. This is the number of users in the "checkout" step of the funnel.

```
WITH funnels AS (  
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browse_date,  
    b.user_id,  
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',  
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'  
  FROM browse AS 'b'  
  LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'  
    ON c.user_id = b.user_id  
  LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'  
    ON p.user_id = c.user_id)  
SELECT count(*), sum(is_checkout) as 'num_checkout'  
from funnels;
```

4. Third, add another column that sums the `is_purchase` column in `funnels`. Alias this column as `'num_purchase'`. This is the number of users in the "purchase" step of the funnel.

```
WITH funnels AS (  
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browse_date,  
    b.user_id,  
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',  
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'  
  FROM browse AS 'b'  
  LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'  
    ON c.user_id = b.user_id  
  LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'  
    ON p.user_id = c.user_id)  
SELECT count(*), sum(is_checkout) as 'num_checkout',  
sum(is_purchase) as 'num_purchase'  
from funnels;
```

5. Finally, let's do add some more calculations to make the results more in depth.
Let's add these two columns:

- Percentage of users from browse to checkout
- Percentage of users from checkout to purchase

```
1.0 * SUM(is_checkout) / COUNT(user_id),  
1.0 * SUM(is_purchase) / SUM(is_checkout)
```

You can also give these columns aliases for more readability.

```
WITH funnels AS (  
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browse_date,  
    b.user_id,  
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',  
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'
```



```

FROM browse AS 'b'
LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'
  ON c.user_id = b.user_id
LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'
  ON p.user_id = c.user_id)
SELECT count(*), sum(is_checkout) as 'num_checkout',
sum(is_purchase) as 'num_purchase', 1.0 * SUM(is_checkout) / COUNT(user_id) as
'%(browse-checkout)',
1.0 * SUM(is_purchase) / SUM(is_checkout) as '%(checkout-purchase)'
from funnels;

```

Build a Funnel from Multiple Tables 4

So, we've created a funnel for Mattresses and More's purchase process! It looks like:

```

WITH funnels AS (
  SELECT DISTINCT b.browse_date,
    b.user_id,
    c.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_checkout',
    p.user_id IS NOT NULL AS 'is_purchase'
  FROM browse AS 'b'
  LEFT JOIN checkout AS 'c'
    ON c.user_id = b.user_id
  LEFT JOIN purchase AS 'p'
    ON p.user_id = c.user_id)
SELECT COUNT(*) AS 'num_browse',
  SUM(is_checkout) AS 'num_checkout',
  SUM(is_purchase) AS 'num_purchase',
  1.0 * SUM(is_checkout) / COUNT(user_id) AS 'browse_to_checkout',
  1.0 * SUM(is_purchase) / SUM(is_checkout) AS 'checkout_to_purchase'
FROM funnels;

```

The management team suspects that conversion from checkout to purchase changes as the `browse_date` gets closer to Christmas Day.

We can make a few edits to this code to calculate the funnel for each `browse_date` using `GROUP BY`.

1. Edit the code in `test.sqlite` so that the first column in the result is `browse_date`. Then, use `GROUP BY` so that we calculate `num_browse`, `num_checkout`, and `num_purchase` for each `browse_date`. Also be sure to `ORDER BY browse_date`.

```

with funnels as (
  select distinct b.browse_date,
    b.user_id,
    c.user_id is not null as 'is_checkout',
    p.user_id is not null as 'is_purchase'
  from browse as 'b'
  left join checkout as 'c'
    on c.user_id = b.user_id

```

```

left join purchase as 'p'
  on p.user_id = c.user_id)
select browse_date, count(*) as 'num_browse',
       sum(is_checkout) as 'num_checkout',
       sum(is_purchase) as 'num_purchase',
       round(1.0 * sum(is_checkout) / count(user_id), 2) as 'browse_to_checkout',
       round(1.0 * sum(is_purchase) / sum(is_checkout), 2) as 'checkout_to_purchase'
from funnels
group by browse_date
order by browse_date;

```

Results

Overall conversion rates:

browse	checkout	purchase	browse_to_checkout	checkout_to_purchase
775	183	163	0.236	0.890

How conversion rates change as we get closer to Christmas:

browse_date	browse	checkout	purchase	browse_to_checkout	checkout_to_purchase
2017-12-20	100	20	16	0.2	0.8
2017-12-21	150	33	28	0.22	0.84
2017-12-22	250	62	55	0.24	0.88
2017-12-23	275	68	64	0.24	0.94

Oh wow, look at the steady increase in sales (increasing `checkout_to_purchase` percentage) as we inch closer to Christmas Eve!