

What is Subquery? State different Types of Subqueries

A **subquery** is a query nested inside another query, often used to retrieve data that will be used in the main query as a condition to further restrict the data to be retrieved. Subqueries are commonly found in SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE statements, as well as in clauses like WHERE, HAVING, and FROM.

Types of Subqueries

1. **Single-row Subquery:** Returns only one row of results. It is often used with comparison operators like =, >, <, etc.

Example:

```
SELECT name
```

```
FROM employees
```

```
WHERE department_id = (SELECT department_id FROM departments WHERE  
name = 'Sales');
```

2. **Multiple-row Subquery:** Returns multiple rows of results. Operators like IN, ANY, or ALL are typically used to handle multiple rows.

Example:

```
SELECT name
```

```
FROM employees
```

```
WHERE department_id IN (SELECT department_id FROM departments WHERE  
location_id = 1700);
```

3. **Correlated Subquery:** This subquery references a column from the outer query, and it's evaluated once for each row processed by the outer query.

Example:

```
SELECT name, salary
```

```
FROM employees e1
```

WHERE salary > (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM employees e2 WHERE
e1.department_id = e2.department_id);

4. **Nested Subquery:** A subquery within another subquery, where you can have multiple layers of subqueries.

Example:

```
SELECT name
FROM employees
WHERE department_id = (SELECT department_id
                        FROM departments
                        WHERE location_id = (SELECT location_id
                                           FROM locations
                                           WHERE city = 'New York'));
```

5. **Inline View:** A subquery in the FROM clause, which acts as a temporary table within the main query.

Example:

```
SELECT dept.name, avg_emp_salary
FROM (SELECT department_id, AVG(salary) AS avg_emp_salary
      FROM employees
      GROUP BY department_id) AS dept
JOIN departments d ON dept.department_id = d.department_id;
```

Each type of subquery serves different use cases and adds flexibility to SQL by enabling more complex and conditional data retrieval.

Can we update or delete record using Subquery? Explain with Example.

1. Update with Subquery

A subquery can be used in an UPDATE statement to modify records based on data from another table.

Example:

```
UPDATE employees
```

```
SET salary = salary * 1.10
```

```
WHERE department_id = (SELECT department_id FROM departments WHERE  
name = 'Sales');
```

Explanation: This query increases the salary of employees in the "Sales" department by 10%.

2. Delete with Subquery

A subquery can also specify which records to delete based on another table's data.

Example:

```
DELETE FROM employees
```

```
WHERE department_id = (SELECT department_id FROM departments WHERE  
name = 'Marketing');
```

Explanation: This query deletes all employees in the "Marketing" department.

These types of subqueries make it possible to dynamically filter the records to update or delete.

What are the limitations of Subquery?

Subqueries have some limitations, including:

1. **Performance Issues:** Subqueries can be slower, especially for large datasets, as they may execute multiple times.
2. **Limited Use with Certain Clauses:** Some databases restrict subqueries in certain clauses like ORDER BY or GROUP BY within subqueries.
3. **Single-column Returns:** In WHERE or HAVING clauses, subqueries must typically return a single column. Multiple columns can lead to errors.
4. **Complexity:** Nested subqueries can make the query hard to read and maintain.
5. **Scalability Issues:** Correlated subqueries, which execute once per row, can be inefficient and may not scale well with larger tables.