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A table expression determines a virtual table. We commonly see table expressions in the From clause of a query. We started with the simplest table expression- a single base table. (Remember a base table is a persistent table; we create the base table with a Create Table statement.).

```
Select *
From zoo;
```

We added Inner Joins to connect two or more base tables to create a virtual table. That join is a table expression.

```
Select an_name, cl_name_last
From vt_animals an
Join vt_clients cl on an.cl_id = cl.cl_id;
```

In this unit we added other table expressions using outer joins to create a virtual table. Those joins also define table expressions.

Now we are going to discuss a technique that uses a subquery as a table expression. This is sometimes called an inline view.

## 1. Using a single subquery in the From clause

Suppose you have a fairly complex query dealing with customer orders that you need to run only for a particular query. You would like to break the query down into smaller, more manageable chunks that you could test separately. One solution is to create a subquery that handles part of the query and then use that query in the From clause of the main query.

Earlier we had a query that did not work. We could not refer to the column alias ClientName in the Select clause because that alias was defined in the same Select clause.

```
Select concat(cl_name_last , ' ', cl_name_first) as ClientName
, concat(ClientName, ' lives in ', cl_state )
From vt_clients;
```

### Demo 01: Using a subquery in the From clause

```
Select concat(ClientName, ' lives in ', cl_state )
From (
    Select concat(cl_name_last , ' ', cl_name_first) as ClientName
    , cl_state
    From vt_clients
) tbl;
```

```
+-----+
| concat(ClientName, ' lives in ', cl_state ) |
+-----+
| Carter James lives in AR                    |
| Harris Eddie lives in AR                    |
| Dalrymple Jack lives in ND                  |
| Hawkins Coleman lives in OH                 |
| Monk Theo lives in NY                      |
| Montgomery Wes lives in OH                 |
| NULL                                       |
| NULL                                       |
| Biederbecke Sue lives in IL                 |
| . . .                                     |
```

The subquery is shown here. It is a Select that exposes the cl\_state and an expression named Client Name

```
Select concat(cl_name_last , ' ', cl_name_first) as ClientName
, cl_state
From vt_clients
```

The subquery is enclosed in parentheses, given a table alias, and placed in the From clause of the main query. The main query can use the exposed columns from the subquery. That allows us to use the calculated column by referencing its alias.

**Demo 02:** This is a more complex subquery that assembles the data for the orders and exposes three columns which are used in the main query.

```
Select ord_id
, ord_date
, itemTotal
From (
  Select
    OH.ord_id
  , OH.ord_date
  , OD.quoted_price * quantity_ordered as itemTotal
  From a_oe.order_headers OH
  Join a_oe.order_details OD on OH.ord_id = OD.ord_id
  Join a_prd.products PR on OD.prod_id = PR.prod_id
  Where quoted_price > 0 and quantity_ordered > 0
)rpt_base
Where ord_date < '2012-11-01'
```

ord_id	ord_date	itemTotal
105	2012-10-01 00:00:00	300.00
105	2012-10-01 00:00:00	155.40
105	2012-10-01 00:00:00	750.00
106	2012-10-01 00:00:00	255.95
107	2012-10-02 00:00:00	49.99
108	2012-10-02 00:00:00	22.50
109	2012-10-12 00:00:00	149.99
110	2012-10-12 00:00:00	149.99
110	2012-10-12 00:00:00	149.99
400	2012-10-15 00:00:00	115.00
400	2012-10-15 00:00:00	75.00
400	2012-10-15 00:00:00	225.00
400	2012-10-15 00:00:00	50.00
401	2012-10-15 00:00:00	69.00
401	2012-10-15 00:00:00	89.85

. . .

## 2. Using multiple subqueries

**Demo 03:** This uses two subqueries and joins them. Each subquery has a name. The subqueries produce virtual tables and we are just joining the two virtual tables.

```
Select t_cust.cust_id
, cust_name
, prod_id
, ext_price
```

```

From (
  Select
    cust_id
  , substring(cust_name_first + ' ' + cust_name_last,1, 20) as cust_name
  From a_oe.customers
  Where cust_name_first = 'William'
) t_cust
Join (
  Select
    OH.ord_id
  , ord_date
  , cust_id
  , prod_id
  , quoted_price * quantity_ordered as ext_price
  From a_oe.order_headers OH
  join a_oe.order_details OD on OH.ord_id = OD.ord_id
) t_ord on t_cust.cust_id = t_ord.cust_id
;

```

cust_id	cust_name	prod_id	ext_price
404950	William Morris	1090	149.99
404950	William Morris	1130	149.99
401890	William Northrep	1110	99.98
402100	William Morise	1130	625.00
402100	William Morise	1000	200.00
402100	William Morise	1120	1900.00
402100	William Morise	1080	25.00
402100	William Morise	1100	180.00
402100	William Morise	1150	19.96
402100	William Morise	1141	300.00
402100	William Morise	1030	27.00
404950	William Morris	1071	15.00
404950	William Morris	1071	50.00
404950	William Morris	1072	24.25
401890	William Northrep	1020	64.75
401890	William Northrep	1110	49.99
404950	William Morris	1040	300.00
404950	William Morris	1050	225.00
404950	William Morris	1080	45.00
404950	William Morris	1110	49.99
404950	William Morris	1152	55.25

21 rows in set (0.00 sec)

#### Demo 04: Joining the subquery virtual table to a base table

```

Select cust_id, cust_name_last, prod_id, ext_price
From a_oe.customers
Join (
  Select OH.ord_id, ord_date, cust_id, prod_id
  , quoted_price * quantity_ordered as ext_price
  From a_oe.order_headers OH
  Join a_oe.order_details OD on OH.ord_id = OD.ord_id
) t_ord using (cust_id)
;

```

cust_id	cust_name_last	prod_id	ext_price
403000	Williams	1030	300.00
403000	Williams	1020	155.40
403000	Williams	1010	750.00
401250	Morse	1060	255.95
403050	Hamilton	1110	49.99
403000	Williams	1080	22.50
403000	Williams	1130	149.99
404950	Morris	1090	149.99
. . . .			

## 2.1. Nesting subqueries

Demo 05: This nests two subqueries in the From clause. As it stands, it is simply a complex way to get order data for purchases of product 1060, but it does show nested subqueries.

```

Select
  order_id, ExtCost
From (
  Select
    ord_id as order_id
  , quantity_ordered * quoted_price As extCost
  From (
    Select
      ord_id
    , quantity_ordered
    , quoted_price
    From a_oe.order_details
    Where prod_id = 1060
  ) tbl_details
) tbl_extCost;

```

order_id	ExtCost
106	255.95
128	511.90
312	1405.00
312	2500.00
405	255.95
505	255.95
511	255.95

This query would be better written as shown here. It is clearer, shorter and probably more efficient.

```

Select
  ord_id as order_id
, quantity_ordered * quoted_price As extCost
From a_oe.order_details
Where prod_id = 1060 ;

```

Sometimes at this point in the class, people start writing subqueries for the sake of writing subqueries and end up with very complex queries to do simple tasks. Try to avoid this.