SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The `SELECT DISTINCT` statement is used to return only distinct (different) values.

Example

Get your own SQL Server

Select all the different countries from the "Customers" table:

```
SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

Inside a table, a column often contains many duplicate values; and sometimes you only want to list the different (distinct) values.

Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2, ...
FROM table_name;
```

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the **Customers** table used in the examples:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209	Germany
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

SELECT Example Without DISTINCT

If you omit the DISTINCT keyword, the SQL statement returns the "Country" value from all the records of the "Customers" table:

Example

```
SELECT Country FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

Count Distinct

By using the DISTINCT keyword in a function called COUNT , we can return the number of different countries.

Example

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT Country) FROM Customers;
```

Try it Yourself »

You will learn about the COUNT function later in this tutorial.

Note: The example above will not work in Firefox! Because COUNT(DISTINCT *column_name*) is not supported in Microsoft Access databases. Firefox is using Microsoft Access in our examples.

Here is the workaround for MS Access:

Example

```
SELECT Count(*) AS DistinctCountries
FROM (SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers);
```

Try it Yourself »

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Select all the different values from the `Country` column in the `Customers` table.

```
            Country FROM Customers;
```

Submit Answer »

Start the Exercise