

DISTINCT

This lesson demonstrates how to remove duplicates from a result set using the DISTINCT clause.

DISTINCT CLAUSE

We'll work with the **DISTINCT** clause in this lesson. This clause can be used to output unique rows in a result set. Remember **DISTINCT** is a post processing filter, meaning it is applied to the resulting rows of a query.

Example Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT col1  
  
FROM table;
```

Connect to the terminal below by clicking in the widget. Once connected, the command line prompt will show up. Enter or copy and paste the command `./DataJek/Lessons/21lesson.sh` and wait for the MySQL prompt to start-up.

-- The lesson queries are reproduced below for convenient copy/paste into the terminal.

-- Query 1

```
SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus from Actors;
```

-- Query 2

```
SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus, FirstName from Actors;
```

1. Except for the primary key in our **Actors** table, every other column can have repeating values. For instance, the marital status is repeated amongst the Actors and if we wanted to see all the possible marital statuses in the table we could use the following query:

```
SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus from Actors;
```

```
mysql> SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus from Actors;
+-----+
| MaritalStatus |
+-----+
| Single        |
| Married       |
| Divorced      |
+-----+
3 rows in set (0.01 sec)
```

2. The **DISTINCT** clause applies to all the selected columns in the output rows. For instance, if we add the column **FirstName** to the select query above, the result will consist of all the rows because each pair (MaritalStatus, FirstName) is unique. This outcome is exhibited below:

```
SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus, FirstName from Actors;
```

```
mysql> SELECT DISTINCT MaritalStatus, FirstName from Actors;
+-----+-----+
| MaritalStatus | FirstName |
+-----+-----+
| Single       | Brad     |
| Single       | Jennifer |
| Single       | Angelina |
| Single       | Johnny   |
| Married      | Natalie  |
| Divorced     | Tom      |
| Married      | Kylie    |
| Married      | Kim      |
| Married      | Amitabh  |
| Married      | Shahrukh |
| Married      | priyanka |
+-----+-----+
11 rows in set (0.01 sec)
```