# ITC 5104 Database Design and SQL

Lecture 1

Chapter 2 Oracle 12c: SQL

**Basic SQL SELECT Statements** 

### Objectives

- Create initial database
- Identify keywords, mandatory clauses, and optional clauses in a SELECT statement
- Select and view all, one or multiple columns of a table
- Use a column alias to clarify contents of a column
- Perform basic arithmetic operations in a SELECT clause
- Remove duplicate items using either DISTINCT or UNIQUE keywords
- Some basic settings for SQL Developer

#### Create Initial Database

- For this course we will use the SQL Developer interface as a client software tool
- SQL Developer will be used to connect to the Oracle 12c database residing on Dilbert
- For those of you with the textbook you can refer to Appendix B for an overview of SQL Developer (is based on previous version)
- These steps were outlined in both Lab Exercise 1 and the notes on installing SQL Developer on your own system

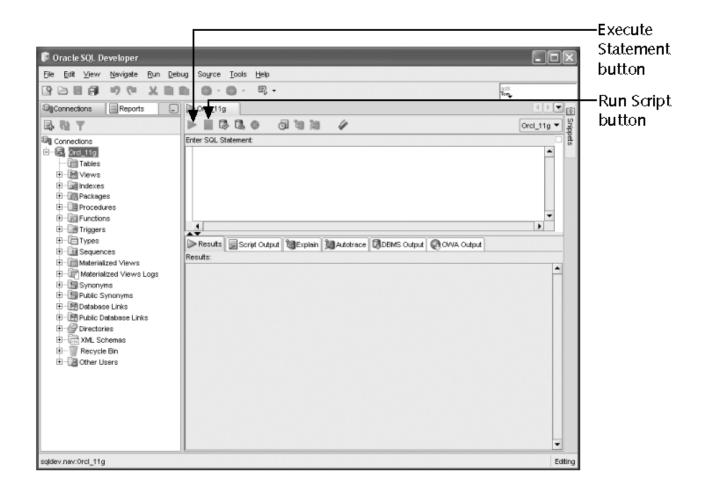
#### Some Facts About Data

- 2.5 quintillion bytes of data generated each day 2.5 exabytes
- This equates to about 1 Zettabytes per year or (1000 Exabyte)
- Facebook scans roughly 105 terabytes of data each half hour

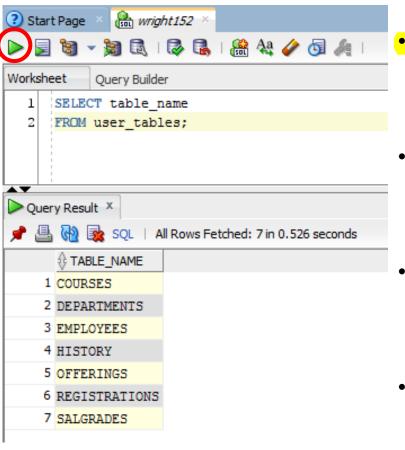
#### Some Facts About Data

- Walmart handles 2.5 petabytes every hour in transactions
- Walmart building cloud database to process 2.5 petabytes per hour
- Business data doubles every 1.2 years
- As of July 2017 over I.2 Billion active users for Gmail

# SQL Developer Interface

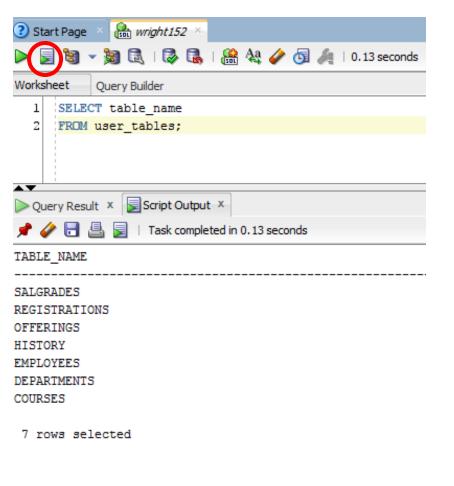


#### What Tables Do I Own?



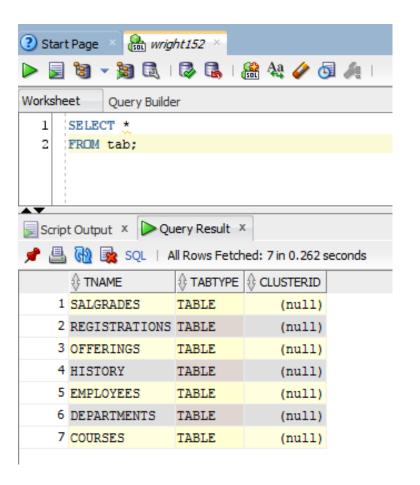
- user\_tables is a data dictionary view that will display the tables you own
- To execute this SQL statement the Execute Statement button is clicked
- You can also press the Ctrl+Enter keys to execute a statement
- You have to have your cursor in the statement you wish to execute, other wise nothing happens

#### What Tables Do I Own?



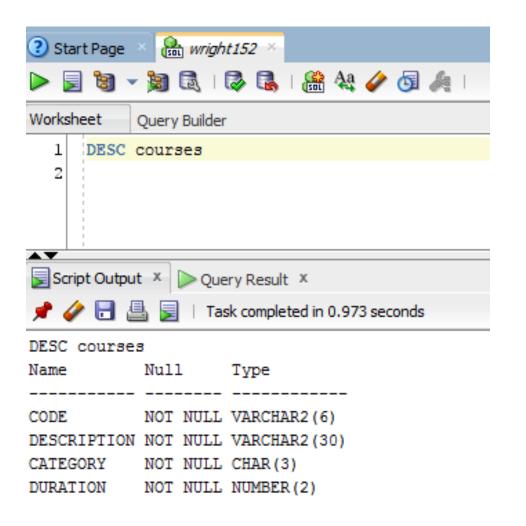
- The output is the same, just in a different format
- This output was produced by clicking the Run Script button or by pressing the F5 function key
- This produces a text based output not as structured as the previous method
- The window in this case does not clear each time the button is pressed, instead it will accumulate and show all outputs that have been

#### What Tables Do I Own?



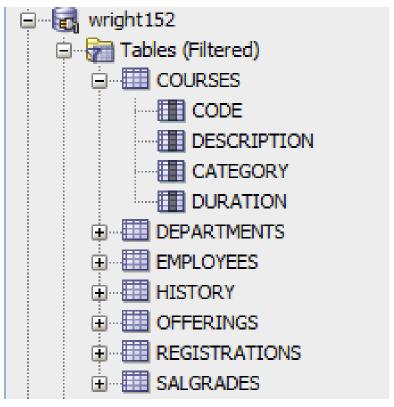
- This is an alternate table called TAB
- TAB is a pseudo table, you will not see it but you can use it
- Its purpose is to display the table objects and other objects called VIFWS
- Will also use to see any dropped tables you may have in your schema

#### DESCRIBE the Structure of a Table



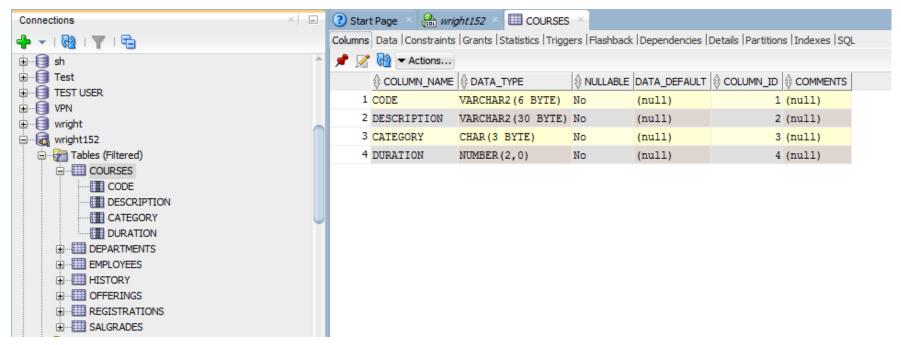
- The DESC or DESCRIBE command followed by a table name will show the structure of that table
- The structure is the names of the columns and their data types with sizes
- The NULL column shows any columns that have been defined as NOT NULL

# Viewing Tables in SQL Developer



- In SQL you can expand the tree where it says Tables, this is on the left side of the window
- The tables you have in your database account will be displayed
- You can click on the actual table name to see details of the table

# Viewing Tables in SQL Developer



- When you click on a table name the columns in the table are shown in the tree and details of the table appear to the right in the upper pane
- You will also notice a series of Tabs above the output, you can click these to see various aspects of the table

#### SELECT Statement

- The majority of the SQL operations performed on a database are done with the SELECT statement
- The SELECT statement allows a user to retrieve data from existing tables
- Note that SELECT does not change data, it simply retrieves it from the database
- The user can ask for all of the fields and records in a table or can request only certain fields and records, up to you as the user
- The SELECT statement asks the database a question, also known as a query

#### **SELECT Statement**

- After querying the database, the results are displayed
- What is displayed is the answer to the question (query) asked by the user
- Keywords begin a section of a SELECT statement are called a clause:
  - SELECT clause
  - FROM clause
  - WHERE clause
  - ORDER BY clause
  - There are more of them

## SELECT Statement Syntax

```
SELECT [DISTINCT | UNIQUE] (*, columnname [ AS alias], ...)

FROM tablename
[WHERE condition]
[GROUP BY group_by_expression]
[HAVING group_condition]
[ORDER BY columnname];
```

This is a syntax diagram for the SELECT statement. We will discuss all of these pieces and even a few that are not here over the course of the semester

We will make reference to this syntax diagram again and again as we build the SELECT statement

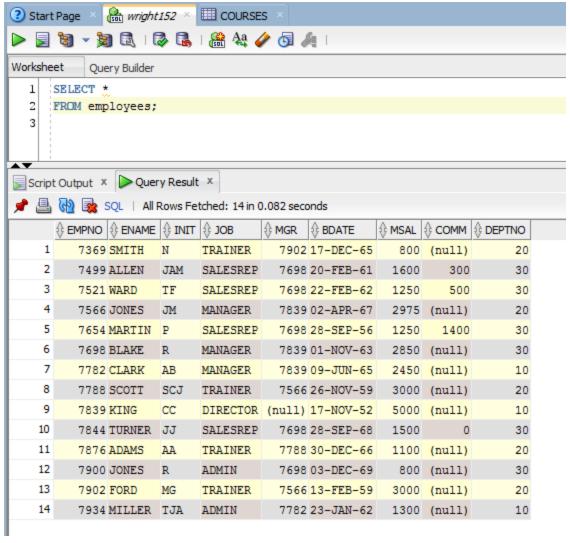
## SELECT Statement Syntax Style

- The other capitalized components in the **SELECT** statement also begin clauses
- The only required clauses are SELECT and FROM
- The asterisk character is used to indicate that all columns available are to be displayed
- To select the entire table, the syntax is:

```
SELECT *
FROM table name;
```

- By default, column headings displayed in a query are capitalized
- \*\*\* It is best to enter your SQL command over several lines, beginning each line with a keyword \*\*\*
- \*\*\* Please enter query over multiple lines, it is not a contest to see who can use
  the fewest lines, make it clear and readable, and easier to debug \*\*\*

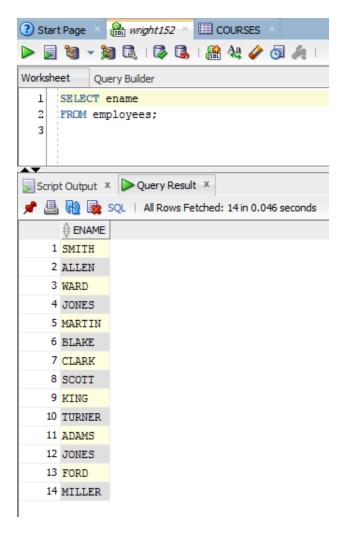
# Selecting all Rows in a Table



## Selecting a Single Column

- In most cases, you will only want to see the data in certain columns
- This may be because some data is sensitive and you do not want others to see it, or the results wrap because of the number of columns being displayed
- Could also be that there is just too much data to see and you do not need to see all the data
- Selecting specific columns in a SELECT statement is called projection. You may select one or many columns, as desired

## Selecting a Single Column



- Only the ename column is requested in the query result
- This query shows all of the ename values in the EMPLOYEES table

### Writing SQL Statements – Syntax Rules

- SQL statements are not case sensitive
- They can be entered on one or many lines
- Keywords cannot be split across lines or abbreviated
- Clauses are usually placed on separate lines for readability and ease of editing
- Tabs and indents make code more readable
- The preferred style is for Keywords to be entered in uppercase, while all other words such as table names and columns to be entered in lowercase (companies usually have coding standards)
- SQL statements end with a semi-colon (;)
- Use of the ; is shown on the previous slide
- If you are executing only a single command in SQL Developer you can omit the semi-colon, good practice to include the semi-colon though

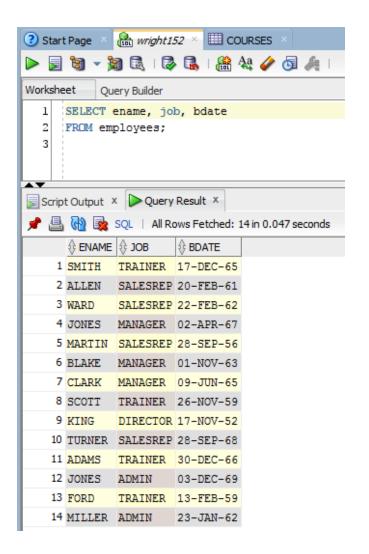
#### Writing SQL Statements – Best Practices

- Based on the previous information, will the following SQL statements produce the same results as the previous slide?
  - 1. SELECT ENAME FROM EMPLOYEES;
  - 2. select ename from employees;
  - 3. SELECT ename FROM employees;
  - SELECT ename FROM employees;
  - Which statement do I expect to use in this case?

# Selecting Multiple Columns From a Table

- The SELECT statement can also be used to retrieve multiple columns from a table
- A comma is used to separate the column names, a space is not necessary but is used to improve readability
- The order the columns are listed is the order in which the columns will display

# Selecting Multiple Columns From a Table



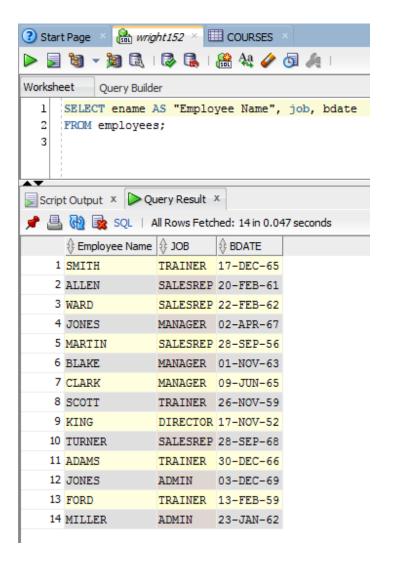
- The ename, job and bdate columns appear in the result table
- The ename was specified first in the SELECT CLAUSE so it appears first followed by the job, then by the bdate column
- A comma separates the two column names
- The statement is terminated with a semicolon
- They columns display in the order they are specified

## Operations Within the SQL Statement

- We will now look at some other operations that can be done with the SELECT statement:
  - Column aliases
  - Arithmetic operations
  - Elimination of duplicate output
  - Display rows on multiple lines

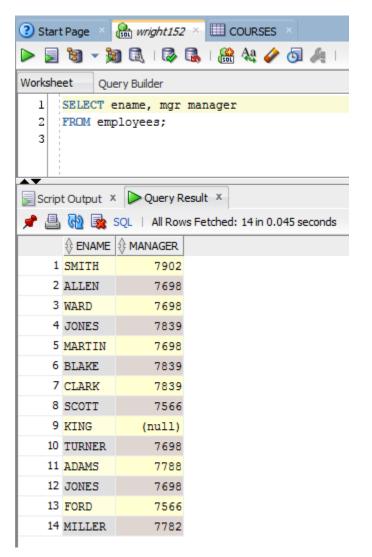
- In some cases, the column (attribute) name may not be a good descriptor of the data displayed
- To better describe the data listed, you can substitute a column alias for the column name in the results of a query
- To use a column alias, place the name of the alias beside the column name in the query

- The optional keyword AS can be included to indicate that what follows is the column alias. It distinguishes the column name from the column alias
- If the alias name contains any spaces or special symbols, or if you want to maintain the case of the alias, you must enclose the alias in double quotation marks



- The column heading ename has been replaced with the alias Employee Name
- Notice JOB and BDATE, are displayed in upper case still
- Since "Employee Name" is enclosed in doublequotations it displays in the case specified as well I am allowed to use the space character
- If I wanted all column headings to appear the same how would I accomplish this?

 As you can see from the next slide, it is sometimes difficult to tell the column name from the alias without the AS keyword – retail is the column name, price is the alias!



- The AS keyword sometimes clarifies that an alias was actually requested
- Here it could be confusing since MANAGER could have been an actual column and a comma was omitted in the SELECT statement
- MANAGER is the alias for MGR

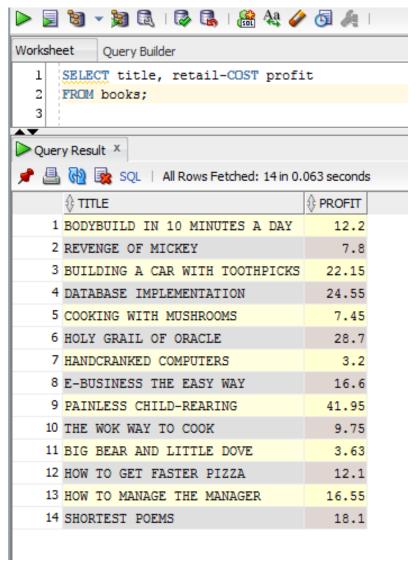
## Column Alignment

- Data for text or character fields is left-aligned
- Data for date fields is left-aligned
- Data for numeric data is right-aligned
- By default, Oracle does not display insignificant zeroes.
- If there was a value of 54.50, the zero on he right side is insignificant so it is suppressed in the result, you would only see 54.5 display
- 25 is would actually be displayed for 25.00, the zeroes are insignificant so they are suppressed in the result

# Arithmetic Expressions

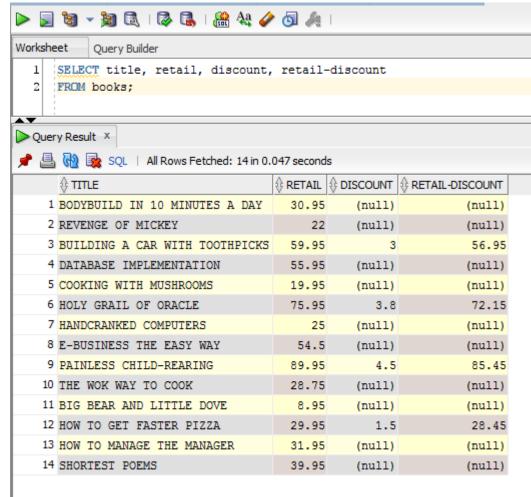
- You can create expressions on NUMBER and DATE data by using arithmetic operators:
  - + Add
  - Subtract
  - \* Multiply
  - / Divide
- Arithmetic operators can be used in any clause of a SQL statement except the FROM clause
- Exponents are not supported, use multiplication
- Arithmetic operations follow the standard order of operations (BEDMAS, or PEMDAS if you learned either of these acronyms)

# Using Arithmetic Operations



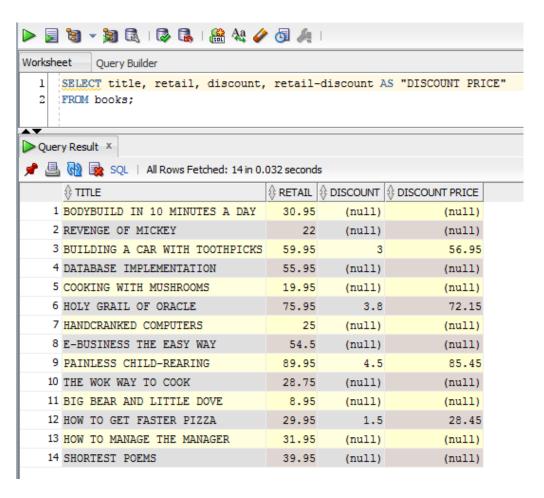
- Notice the use of the column alias
- The second heading appears as PROFIT
- If the column alias was not used how would the output appear?

# Using Arithmetic Operations



- The heading shows what appears in the Select CLAUSE, RETAIL-DISCOUNT
- An alias would help to make the result set more understandable
- Which is better to see an alias of DICOUNT PRICE or RETAIL-DISCOUNT
- DISCOUNT PRICE shows a clearer picture of the data in the column
- Alias values are used quite frequently when arithmetic statements are performed

## Using Arithmetic Operations



Alias being used to clarify result in column

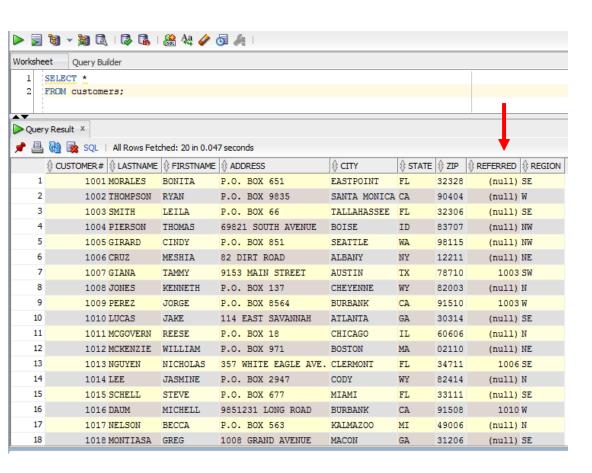
## Order of Operations

- Moving from left to right in the arithmetic equation, any required multiplication and division operations are solved first
- Addition and subtraction operations are solved after multiplication and division, again moving form left to right in the equation
- To override this order of operations, you use parentheses to enclose a portion that should be calculated first

#### **NULL Values**

- If no value is entered for a column in a row of data the value is considered NULL
- It indicates the absence of data
- In the next slide you will notice in the COMM column the word (null) for any row value that has a NULL value for the COMM

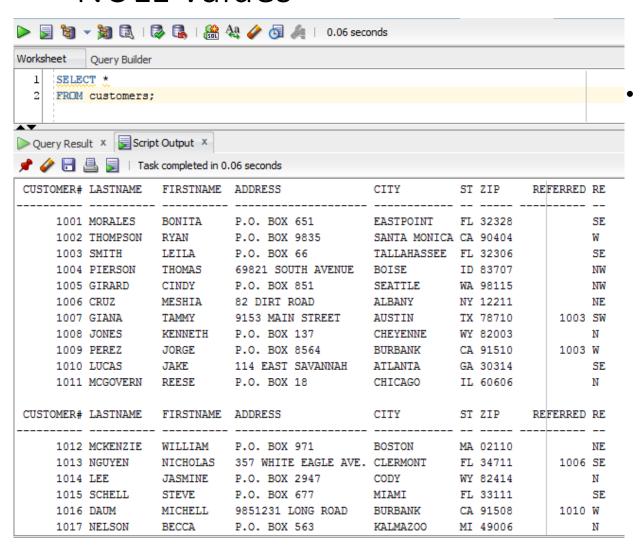
### **NULL Values**



Notice the word NULL for any value that is not defined

NULL is not stored in the database, it appears for our use to give a visual indication that the column contains a NULL value

### **NULL Values**

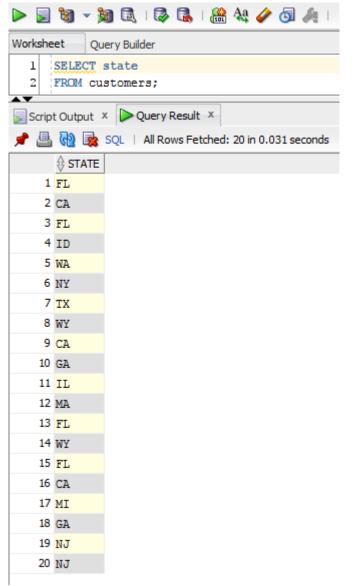


If I use the alternate method to execute a query, notice the NULL values appear with no visible value or any indication the column is NULL

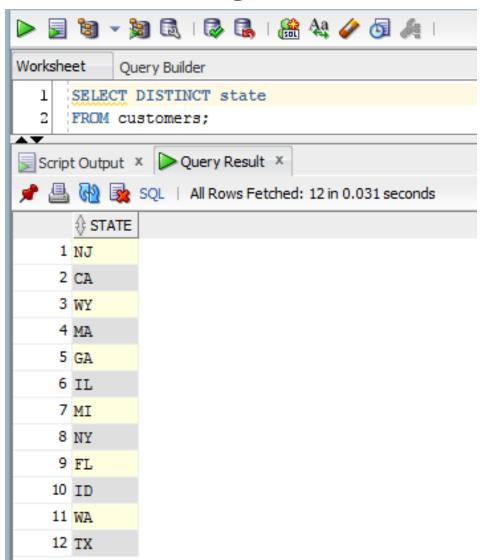
### **NULL Values**

- NULL values can lead to undesirable results in operations
- For example, what if you need to an employee's total salary, as we saw this was difficult to determine
- Seems simple enough, but check out the result for every row where the REFERRED value was NULL
- This can be fixed, we shall see later on a function can be used to allow you to substitute a value for a NULL

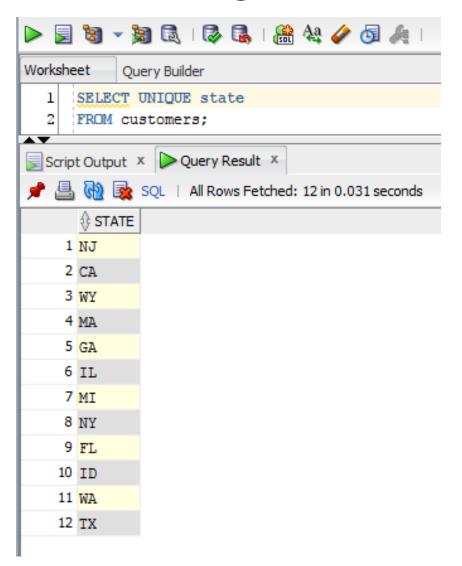
- Suppose you want to know which are the various jobs the employees can have
- You want to list only the jobs, not the employee information. This
  could be done by listing only the JOB column of the EMPLOYEES table
- This is done on the next slide. Do you notice a problem?



- The output shows one row of output for each row in the table
- 20 rows shows 20 state values, one for each row
- If the question was asked, show the jobs that my employees may have, would I want to see the value for each employee or would I only need to see individual state values?
- I am glad I only have 14 customers showing and not 50,000 customers
- How can I modify the query to show each state only once?



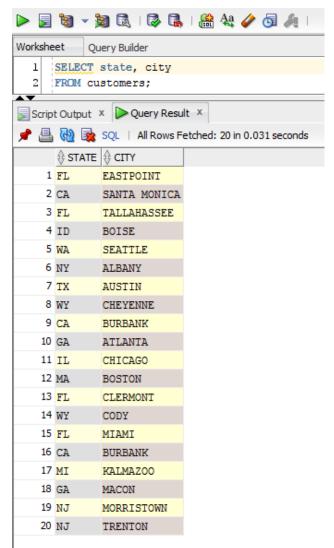
- In this output I only see an individual row for each state
- There are no duplicate values displayed for the state column
- Even if I had 50,000 customers in the table, and all customers were in one of the 12 different states showing then I would only see 12 rows of output still
- Any duplicate values are suppressed



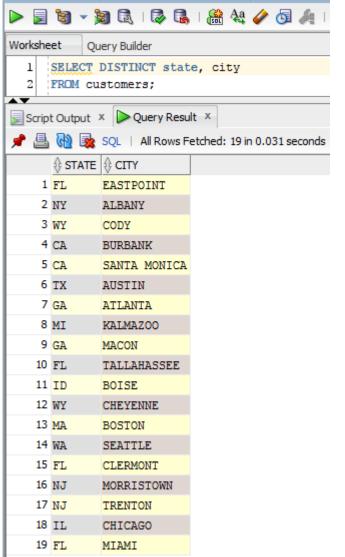
- The UNIQUE keyword displays the same output as the DISTINCT keyword
- Both perform the same function and are interchangeable

- The DISTINCT keyword is applied to all columns listed in the SELECT statement
- So, if multiple columns were used in the SELECT, each possible result would be tested for uniqueness. Only the ones that are unique for all columns will be returned

## Using DISTINCT



Here I am showing the STATE and CITY values, there is one row for every CUSTOMER



- Instead of the 20rows for all customers or the 12 rows for the 12 different states shown before or the unique results of CITY and STATE combinations
- This tells me that two of my customers have the same STATE and CITY
- I do not know which ones are the same, only that two must be the same

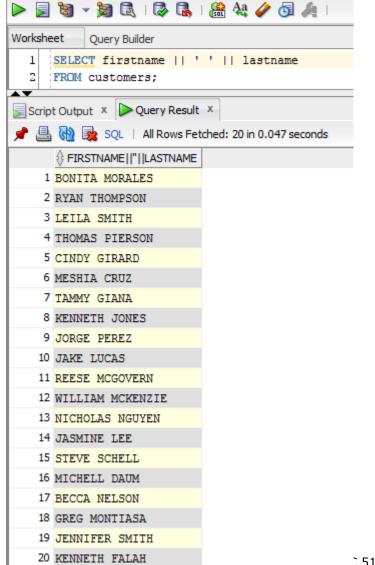
### DISTINCT versus UNIQUE

- I was asked, "what is the difference between DISTINCT and UNIQUE?"
- UNIQUE was Oracle's traditional method for removing duplicate values, and only Oracle uses this method
- DISTINCT was added when Oracle adopted the ANSI specifications
- So DISTINCT will work in other SQL versions, where UNIQUE will only function with Oracle

- So far, each field has been placed in a column of its own
- In certain situations, you might want to display the contents of each field so they appear right next to each other, separated by a single space or comma
- Combining columns is called concatenation
- The concatenation operator in Oracle is two vertical bars beside one another

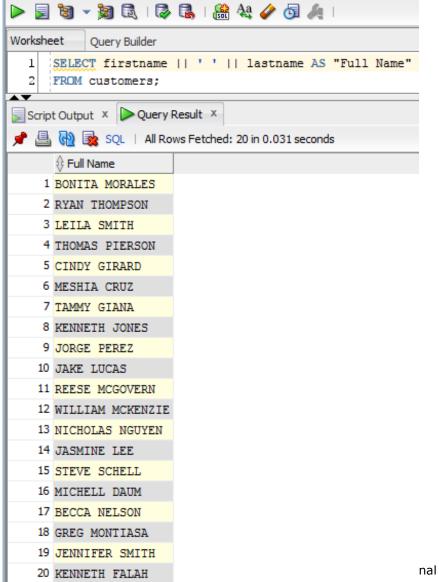


- This did as I requested, it concatenated the first name and the last name together
- It is not easy to read, can it be improved?
- There should be a space between the two values
- Time to try again to improve the readability of our result

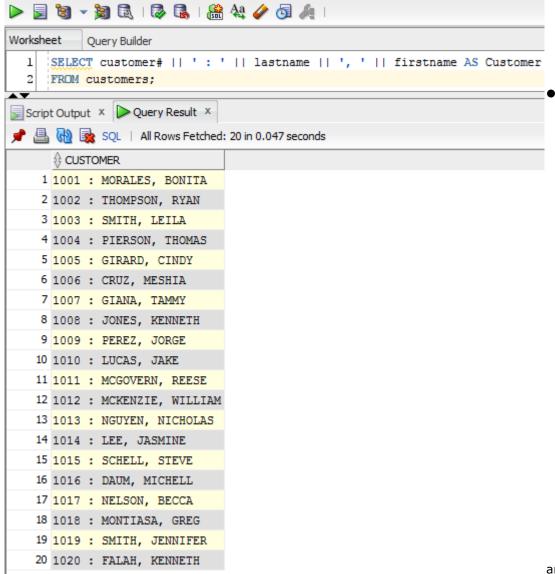


- This looks better, I have the space between two values
- Could it still be improved?
- What about the headings?
- How can I fix the heading?

- The previous slide took two concatenation operations
- In the previous slide, a string literal was inserted into the output to put a blank space between the two fields
- All string literals are enclosed in single quotation marks, the single quotes have a space inside so I end up with a space in my result
- On the previous slide, the lastname is concatenated to the blank space, then the blank space is concatenated to the firstname



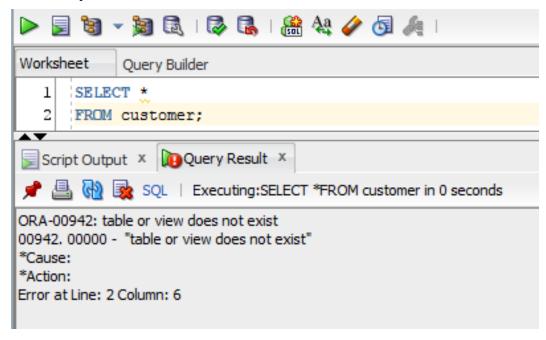
- Here an alias is used to make the output more readable
- It is always advisable to use column aliases to replace headings for expressions or concatenated values that could appear in the headings when concatenation is used



 This is another variation where string literals have been placed into the result

and SQL 53

### Syntax Errors



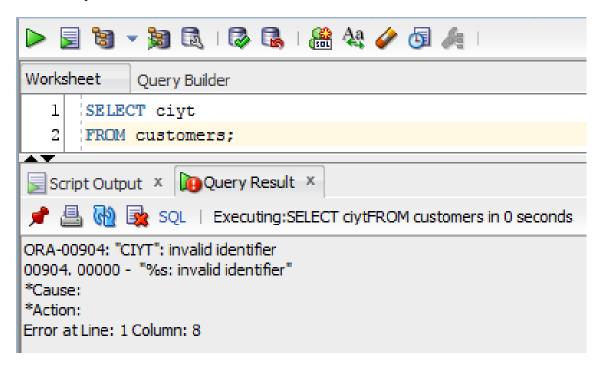
The query to the right produces an error ORA-00942 table or view does not exist

Table name in this case is incorrect it is CUSTOMERS not CUSTOMER

Correct and the reexecute the command

Check your tree on the left to see the table names

### Syntax Errors



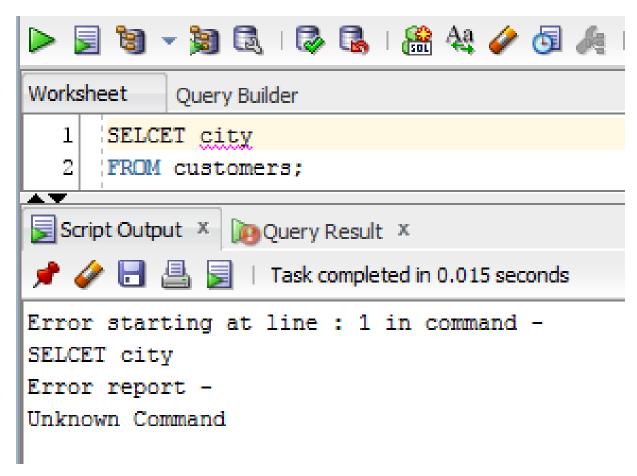
The query to the right has produced an error ORA-00904: CIYTinvalid identifier

Column name is misspelled, should be CITY

Again check the tree on the left to see the column names in the table

Could also do a DESCRIBE customers; to see correct columns

### Syntax Errors



The keyword SELECT is misspelled

Gives error as Unknown Command

Notice the keyword did turn BLUE indicating the error, you will notice all keywords will display in BLUE to indicate they are keywords

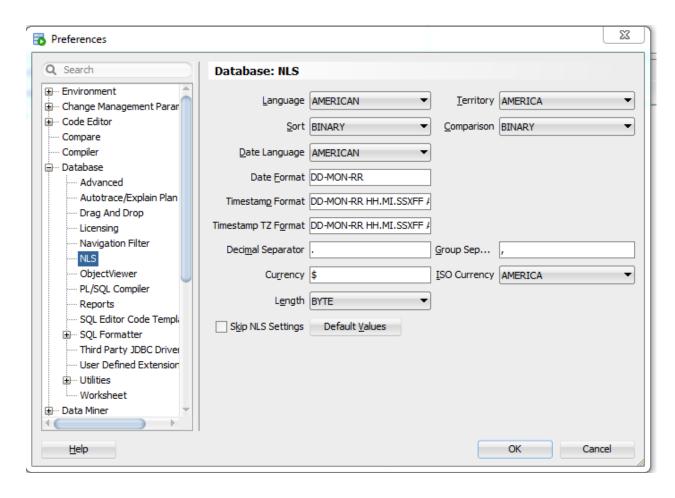
Fix and re-execute

Notice the red squiggle after the misspelled keyword

## Settings

- It is important to make sure your date values are set correctly
- The default date format Oracle uses is DD-MON-RR
- When you install SQL Developer it looks at the Windows settings and sets the date format according to country
- ENGLISH CANADA is a different value
- Go to the Tools menu, select PREFERENCES, expand DATABASE then select NLS
- This is the important setting to check, please make sure otherwise you may get errors in your outputs involving date values

## Settings



Set the following: Date Format Timestamp Format Timestamp TZ Format

They should all have DD-MON-RR

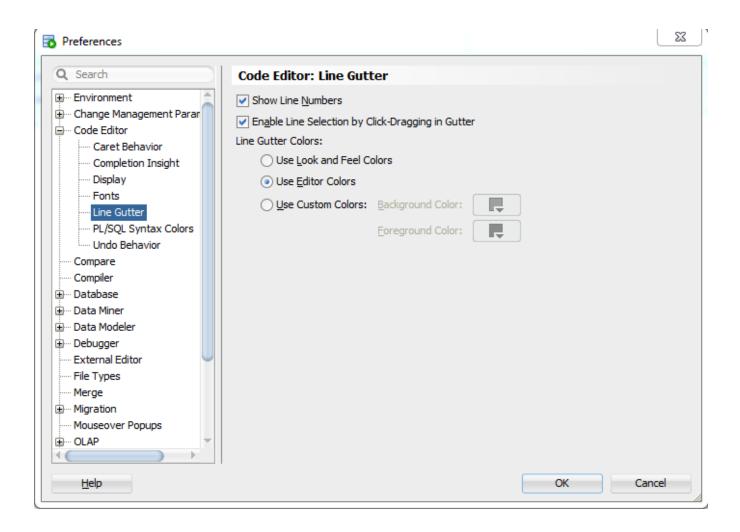
If yours is different please modify then click OK

On the Timestamps you only need to modify the left most values

### Line Numbers

- While you are in the Preferences click on the Code Editor option
- Then select Line Gutter
- Check the Show Line Numbers check box
- This will then show line numbers in the editor

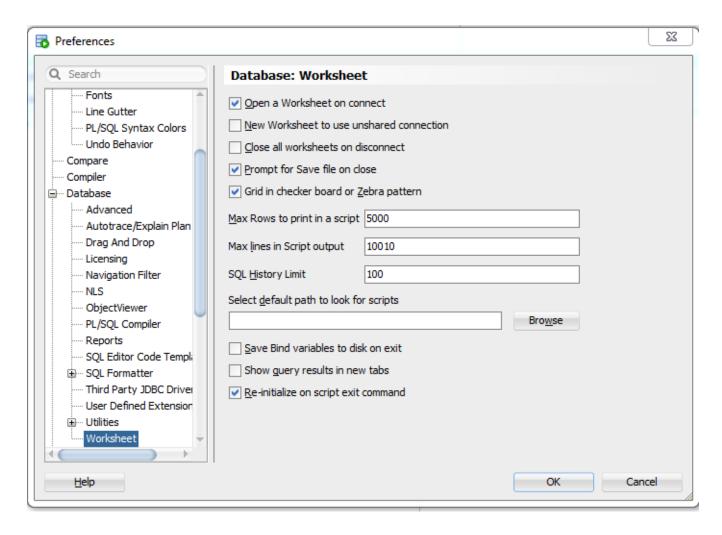
### Line Numbers



## Zebra Pattern Print Output

- You may have noticed that the output in my queries used alternate colours for each line
- It alternated between a light grey and a cream colour
- If this is not done the output appears in one colour, white, still in a grid
- This method just makes it easier to read the output
- Again in the Preferences menu, select Database, scroll down till you see Worksheet, click the option Grid in checker board or Zebra pattern

## Zebra Pattern Print Output



### Summary

- Identify keywords, mandatory clauses, and optional clauses in a SELECT statement
- Select and view all, one or multiple columns of a table
- Use a column alias to clarify contents of a column
- Perform basic arithmetic operations in a SELECT clause
- Remove duplicate items using either DISTINCT or UNIQUE keywords
- Some basic settings for SQL Developer