

584. Find Customer Referee

Source:

<https://leetcode.com/problems/find-customer-referee/?envType=study-plan-v2&envId=top-sql-50>

Table: Customer

```
+-----+-----+
| Column Name | Type   |
+-----+-----+
| id          | int    |
| name       | varchar|
| referee_id | int    |
+-----+-----+
```

In SQL, id is the primary key column for this table.

Each row of this table indicates the id of a customer, their name, and the id of the customer who referred them.

The result format is in the following example.

Example 1:

Input:

Customer table:

```
+----+-----+-----+
| id | name | referee_id |
+----+-----+-----+
| 1  | Will | null       |
| 2  | Jane | null       |
| 3  | Alex | 2          |
```

4	Bill	null	
5	Zack	1	
6	Mark	2	
+----+-----+-----+			

Output:

+-----+
name
+-----+
Will
Jane
Bill
Zack
+-----+

Q) Find the names of the customer that are not referred by the customer with id = 2. Return the result table in any order.

Ans:

```
SELECT name
FROM Customer
WHERE referee_id != 2 OR referee_id is null;
```

Explanation:

1. **SELECT name**

- This tells MySQL to retrieve the values from the **name** column.

2. **FROM Customer**

- Specifies the table: you're pulling data from the **Customer** table.

3. WHERE referee_id != 2 OR referee_id IS NULL

This is the filter condition. Let's break it into two parts:

A. referee_id != 2

- This means the customer's **referee_id** is not equal to 2.
- Customers referred by anyone **other than ID 2** will satisfy this condition.

B. OR referee_id IS NULL

- Some customers might not have a referee (i.e., no one referred them). In that case, the **referee_id** is **NULL**.
- **NULL** is a special value in SQL, and comparing it directly (**referee_id != 2**) doesn't work—you have to explicitly check for **IS NULL**.
- So we include this to **make sure we also select customers with no referee**.

✓ Combined Effect:

- The query selects all customer names **except** those whose **referee_id** is exactly 2.