# **SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement**

[❮ Previous](https://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_select.asp)[Next ❯](https://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_where.asp)

## The SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

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

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

### **SELECT DISTINCT Syntax**

SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2, ...  
FROM table\_name;

## Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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

The following SQL statement selects all (including the duplicates) values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

### **Example**[**Get your own SQL Server**](https://www.w3schools.com/spaces/)

SELECT Country FROM Customers;

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/sql/trysql.asp?filename=trysql_select_no_distinct)

Now, let us use the SELECT DISTINCT statement and see the result.

## SELECT DISTINCT Examples

The following SQL statement selects only the DISTINCT values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

### **Example**

SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers;

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/sql/trysql.asp?filename=trysql_select_distinct)

The following SQL statement lists the number of different (distinct) customer countries:

### **Example**

SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT Country) FROM Customers;

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/sql/trysql.asp?filename=trysql_select_distinct2)

**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);