



## Text Recap of the Previous Video

### Combining data

Often you're going to want to combine data from multiple sources, such as different tables in a database or sheets in an Excel file. For example, you might want to include the information from the *People* sheet with the *Orders* sheet so you can analyze the performance of each salesperson.

In Tableau, you can do this by dragging multiple sheets into the top panel. You get two different outcomes depending on where you drag it, a **union** or a **join**.

### Union

If you drag *People* below *Orders*, you get a union. Unions stack the data on top of each other, the second sheet ends up being appended to the end of the first sheet. This works great if you have multiple sheets with columns in common as the columns will match up. However if the columns are different, then you'll get a lot of "nulls" because columns are created for both sheets, but the first sheet doesn't have data for the second sheet's columns.



## Text: Combining Data Recap

**Connections** Add

Global Superstore  
Excel

**Sheets**

☒ Cleaned with Data Interpreter  
[Review the results.](#) (To undo changes, clear the check box.)

- Orders
- People
- Returns
- Orders A1:X10000
- New Union

**Orders+**

**Union**

**nulls**

Sort fields: Data source order | Show aliases | Show hidden fields | 1,000 rows

#	#	Abc	Abc	Abc	Abc
Orders+	Orders+	Orders+	Orders+	Orders+	Orders+
Profit	Shipping Cost	Order Priority	Person	Sheet	Table Name
-288.77	923.630	Critical	null	Orders	Orders
919.97	915.490	Medium	null	Orders	Orders
-96.54	910.160	Medium	null	Orders	Orders
311.52	903.040	Critical	null	Orders	Orders
763.28	897.350	Critical	null	Orders	Orders
564.84	894.770	Critical	null	Orders	Orders
996.48	878.380	High	null	Orders	Orders
1,906.49	867.690	Low	null	Orders	Orders

Data Source | Sheet 1

## Joins

If you drag the second sheet or table to the top panel but not on top of the first sheet, you'll get a join. Instead of stacking the data on top of each other, joins combines data from the sheets based on common values. In our case, both *Orders* and *People* have a column **Region** that we can use for the common values.



## Text: Combining Data Recap

**Connections** Add

Global Superstore  
Excel

**Sheets**

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Orders  
People  
Returns  
Orders A1:X10000  
New Union

**Orders** **People**

**Joined data**

Sort fields: Data source order ☐ Show aliases ☐ Show hidden fields 1,000 rows

it	# Orders Profit	# Orders Shipping Cost	Abc Orders Order Priority	Abc People Person	Abc People Region (People)
100000	762.18	933.570	Critical	Kelly Williams	East
.00000	-288.77	923.630	Critical	Anthony Jacobs	Oceania
.00000	919.97	915.490	Medium	Anthony Jacobs	Oceania
.00000	-96.54	910.160	Medium	Anna Andreadi	Central
100000	311.52	903.040	Critical	Deborah Brumfi...	Africa
.00000	763.28	897.350	Critical	Anthony Jacobs	Oceania
100000	564.84	894.770	Critical	Anthony Jacobs	Oceania
100000	996.48	878.380	High	Anthony Jacobs	Oceania

Data Source Sheet 1

Tableau does an "inner join" by default. This combines the data wherever there is a common value. So when **Region** in *Orders* is "East", it takes the data from *People* where **Region** is "East". Above you can see the **Person** column from *People* has been added to the data from *Orders*.

You can click on the join symbol to change the type of join being performed. In this case you can also select the "left inner join." The normal inner join combines only data that is common, but the left inner join returns all the data in the original sheet setting rows not common to *null*.

It's important to understand joins because you'll be combining data often. Here's the [Tableau documentation](#) on joins, which I suggest you read if you haven't encountered joins before.

NEXT