



Retrieving Data Using the SQL `SELECT` Statement

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- List the capabilities of SQL `SELECT` statements
- Execute a basic `SELECT` statement

Lesson Agenda

- **Basic SELECT statement**
- Arithmetic expressions and NULL values in the SELECT statement
- Column aliases
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the DISTINCT keyword
- DESCRIBE command

Capabilities of SQL SELECT Statements

Projection

Table 1

Selection

Table 1

Join

Table 1

Table 2

Basic SELECT Statement

```
SELECT * | { [DISTINCT] column | expression [alias] , ... }  
FROM    table;
```

- SELECT identifies the columns to be displayed.
- FROM identifies the table containing those columns.

Selecting All Columns

```
SELECT *  
FROM departments;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
1	10	Administration	200	1700
2	20	Marketing	201	1800
3	50	Shipping	124	1500
4	60	IT	103	1400
5	80	Sales	149	2500
6	90	Executive	100	1700
7	110	Accounting	205	1700
8	190	Contracting	(null)	1700

Selecting Specific Columns

```
SELECT department_id, location_id  
FROM departments;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	LOCATION_ID
1	10	1700
2	20	1800
3	50	1500
4	60	1400
5	80	2500
6	90	1700
7	110	1700
8	190	1700

Writing SQL Statements

- SQL statements are not case sensitive.
- SQL statements can be entered on one or more lines.
- Keywords cannot be abbreviated or split across lines.
- Clauses are usually placed on separate lines.
- Indents are used to enhance readability.
- In SQL Developer, SQL statements can be optionally terminated by a semicolon (;). Semicolons are required when you execute multiple SQL statements.
- In SQL*Plus, you are required to end each SQL statement with a semicolon (;).

Column Heading Defaults

- SQL Developer:
 - Default heading alignment: Left-aligned
 - Default heading display: Uppercase
- SQL*Plus:
 - Character and Date column headings are left-aligned.
 - Number column headings are right-aligned.
 - Default heading display: Uppercase

Lesson Agenda

- Basic `SELECT` statement
- Arithmetic expressions and `NULL` values in the `SELECT` statement
- Column Aliases
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the `DISTINCT` keyword
- `DESCRIBE` command

Arithmetic Expressions

Create expressions with number and date data by using arithmetic operators.

Operator	Description
+	Add
-	Subtract
*	Multiply
/	Divide

Using Arithmetic Operators

```
SELECT last_name, salary, salary + 300
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	SALARY+300
1	Whalen	4400	4700
2	Hartstein	13000	13300
3	Fay	6000	6300
4	Higgins	12000	12300
5	Gietz	8300	8600
6	King	24000	24300
7	Kochhar	17000	17300
8	De Haan	17000	17300
9	Hunold	9000	9300
10	Ernst	6000	6300

...

Operator Precedence

```
SELECT last_name, salary, 12*salary+100
FROM employees;
```

1

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	12*SALARY+100
1	Whalen	4400	52900
2	Hartstein	13000	156100
3	Fay	6000	72100

...

```
SELECT last_name, salary, 12*(salary+100)
FROM employees;
```

2

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	12*(SALARY+100)
1	Whalen	4400	54000
2	Hartstein	13000	157200
3	Fay	6000	73200

...

Defining a Null Value

- Null is a value that is unavailable, unassigned, unknown, or inapplicable.
- Null is not the same as zero or a blank space.

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary, commission_pct  
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT
1	Whalen	AD_ASST	4400	(null)
2	Hartstein	MK_MAN	13000	(null)

...

17	Zlotkey	SA_MAN	10500	0.2
18	Abel	SA_REP	11000	0.3
19	Taylor	SA_REP	8600	0.2
20	Grant	SA_REP	7000	0.15

Null Values in Arithmetic Expressions

Arithmetic expressions containing a null value evaluate to null.

```
SELECT last_name, 12*salary*commission_pct
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	12*SALARY*COMMISSION_PCT
1	Whalen	(null)
2	Hartstein	(null)
3	Fay	(null)

...

17	Zlotkey	25200
18	Abel	39600
19	Taylor	20640
20	Grant	12600

Lesson Agenda

- Basic `SELECT` statement
- Arithmetic expressions and `NULL` values in the `SELECT` statement
- **Column aliases**
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the `DISTINCT` keyword
- `DESCRIBE` command

Defining a Column Alias

A column alias:

- Renames a column heading
- Is useful with calculations
- Immediately follows the column name (There can also be the optional `AS` keyword between the column name and the alias.)
- Requires double quotation marks if it contains spaces or special characters, or if it is case-sensitive

Using Column Aliases

```
SELECT last_name AS name, commission_pct comm
FROM employees;
```

	NAME	COMM
1	Whalen	(null)
2	Hartstein	(null)
3	Fay	(null)

...

```
SELECT last_name "Name", salary*12 "Annual Salary"
FROM employees;
```

	Name	Annual Salary
1	Whalen	52800
2	Hartstein	156000
3	Fay	72000

...

Lesson Agenda

- Basic `SELECT` Statement
- Arithmetic Expressions and `NULL` values in `SELECT` statement
- Column Aliases
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the `DISTINCT` keyword
- `DESCRIBE` command

Concatenation Operator

A concatenation operator:

- Links columns or character strings to other columns
- Is represented by two vertical bars (||)
- Creates a resultant column that is a character expression

```
SELECT    last_name || job_id AS "Employees"  
FROM      employees;
```

	Employees
1	AbelSA_REP
2	DaviesST_CLERK
3	De HaanAD_VP
4	ErnstIT_PROG
5	FayMK_REP
6	GietzAC_ACCOUNT

...

Literal Character Strings

- A literal is a character, a number, or a date that is included in the `SELECT` statement.
- Date and character literal values must be enclosed within single quotation marks.
- Each character string is output once for each row returned.

Using Literal Character Strings

```
SELECT last_name || ' is a ' || job_id  
       AS "Employee Details"  
FROM   employees;
```

	Employee Details
1	Abel is a SA_REP
2	Davies is a ST_CLERK
3	De Haan is a AD_VP
4	Ernst is a IT_PROG
5	Fay is a MK_REP
6	Gietz is a AC_ACCOUNT
7	Grant is a SA_REP
8	Hartstein is a MK_MAN
9	Higgins is a AC_MGR
10	Hunold is a IT_PROG

...

Alternative Quote (q) Operator

- Specify your own quotation mark delimiter.
- Select any delimiter.
- Increase readability and usability.

```
SELECT department_name || q' [ Department's Manager Id: ] '  
      || manager_id  
      AS "Department and Manager"  
FROM departments;
```

	Department and Manager
1	Administration Department's Manager Id: 200
2	Marketing Department's Manager Id: 201
3	Shipping Department's Manager Id: 124
4	IT Department's Manager Id: 103
5	Sales Department's Manager Id: 149
6	Executive Department's Manager Id: 100
7	Accounting Department's Manager Id: 205
8	Contracting Department's Manager Id:

Duplicate Rows

The default display of queries is all rows, including duplicate rows.

1

```
SELECT department_id
FROM   employees;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	10
2	20
3	20
4	110
5	110

...

2

```
SELECT DISTINCT department_id
FROM   employees;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	(null)
2	20
3	90
4	110
5	50
6	80
7	10
8	60

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- Column aliases
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the `DISTINCT` keyword
- **`DESCRIBE` command**

Displaying the Table Structure

- Use the DESCRIBE command to display the structure of a table.
- Or, select the table in the Connections tree and use the Columns tab to view the table structure.

```
DESC[RIBE] tablename
```

The screenshot shows the Oracle SQL Developer interface. On the left, the 'Connections' tree is expanded to show 'myconnection' > 'Tables' > 'DEPARTMENTS'. The 'Columns' tab is selected for the 'DEPARTMENTS' table. The main pane displays the table structure with the following columns:

Column Name	Data Type	Nullable	Data Default	COLUMN ID	Primary Key	COMMENTS
DEPARTMENT_ID	NUMBER(4,0)	No	(null)	1	1	Primary key column
DEPARTMENT_N...	VARCHAR2(30 BYTE)	No	(null)	2	(null)	A not null column th
MANAGER_ID	NUMBER(6,0)	Yes	(null)	3	(null)	Manager_id of a dep
LOCATION_ID	NUMBER(4,0)	Yes	(null)	4	(null)	Location id where a

Using the DESCRIBE Command

```
DESCRIBE employees
```

```
DESCRIBE employees
Name                               Null    Type
-----
EMPLOYEE_ID                       NOT NULL NUMBER(6)
FIRST_NAME                        VARCHAR2(20)
LAST_NAME                         NOT NULL VARCHAR2(25)
EMAIL                             NOT NULL VARCHAR2(25)
PHONE_NUMBER                      VARCHAR2(20)
HIRE_DATE                         NOT NULL DATE
JOB_ID                            NOT NULL VARCHAR2(10)
SALARY                            NUMBER(8,2)
COMMISSION_PCT                   NUMBER(2,2)
MANAGER_ID                       NUMBER(6)
DEPARTMENT_ID                    NUMBER(4)

11 rows selected
```

Quiz

Identify the SELECT statements that execute successfully.

1. `SELECT first_name, last_name, job_id, salary*12
AS Yearly Sal
FROM employees;`

2. `SELECT first_name, last_name, job_id, salary*12
"yearly sal"
FROM employees;`

3. `SELECT first_name, last_name, job_id, salary AS
"yearly sal"
FROM employees;`

4. `SELECT first_name+last_name AS name, job_id,
salary*12 yearly sal
FROM employees;`

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Write a `SELECT` statement that:
 - Returns all rows and columns from a table
 - Returns specified columns from a table
 - Uses column aliases to display more descriptive column headings

```
SELECT * | { [DISTINCT] column/expression [alias], ... }  
FROM table;
```

Practice 1: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Selecting all data from different tables
- Describing the structure of tables
- Performing arithmetic calculations and specifying column names