

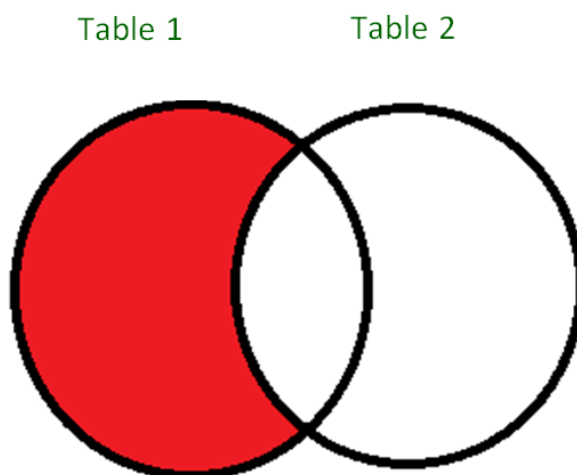


SQL | MINUS Operator

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The Minus Operator in SQL is used with two SELECT statements. The MINUS operator is used to subtract the result set obtained by first SELECT query from the result set obtained by second SELECT query. In simple words, we can say that MINUS operator will return only those rows which are unique in only first SELECT query and not those rows which are common to both first and second SELECT queries.

Pictorial Representation:



As you can see in the above diagram, the MINUS operator will return only those rows which are present in the result set from Table1 and not present in the result set of Table2.

Basic Syntax:

```
SELECT column1 , column2 , ... columnN
FROM table_name
WHERE condition
MINUS
SELECT column1 , column2 , ... columnN
FROM table_name
WHERE condition;
```

columnN: column1, column2.. are the name of columns of the table.

Important Points:

- The WHERE clause is optional in the above query.
- The number of columns in both SELECT statements must be same.
- The data type of corresponding columns of both SELECT statement must be same.

Sample Tables:

AD

Table1

Table 1

Name	Address	Age	Grade
Harsh	Delhi	20	A
Gaurav	Jaipur	21	B
Pratik	Mumbai	21	A
Dhanraj	Kolkata	22	B

Table 2

Name	Age	Phone	Grade
Akash	20	xxxxxxxxxx	A
Dhiraj	21	xxxxxxxxxx	B
Vaibhav	21	xxxxxxxxxx	A
Dhanraj	22	xxxxxxxxxx	B

Queries:

```
SELECT NAME, AGE , GRADE
FROM Table1
MINUS
SELECT NAME, AGE, GRADE
FROM Table2
```

Output:

The above query will return only those rows which are unique in 'Table1'. We can clearly see that values in the fields NAME, AGE and GRADE for the last row in both tables are same. Therefore, the output will be the first three rows from Table1. The obtained output is shown below:

Name	Age	Grade
Harsh	20	A
Gaurav	21	B
Pratik	21	A

Note: The MINUS operator is not supported with all databases. It is supported by Oracle database but not SQL server or PostgreSQL.

This article is contributed by [Harsh Agarwal](#). If you like GeeksforGeeks and would like to contribute, you can also write an article using [write.geeksforgeeks.org](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/write/geeksforgeeks.org) or mail your article to review-team@geeksforgeeks.org. See your article appearing on the GeeksforGeeks main page and help other Geeks.

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Last Updated : 15 Jul, 2022

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