

Oracle SELECT DISTINCT

The **DISTINCT** clause is used in a **SELECT** statement to filter duplicate rows in the result set. It ensures that rows returned are unique for the column or columns specified in the **SELECT** clause.

```
SELECT DISTINCT column_1
FROM table;
```

To retrieve unique data based on multiple columns, you just need to specify the column list in the **SELECT** clause as follows:

```
SELECT
    DISTINCT column_1,
    column_2,
    column_3
FROM
    table_name;
```

CONTACTS
* CONTACT_ID
FIRST_NAME
LAST_NAME
EMAIL
PHONE
CUSTOMER_ID

retrieves all contact first names:

```
SELECT
    first_name
FROM
    contacts
ORDER BY
    first_name;
```

To get unique contact first names, you add the **DISTINCT** keyword to the above **SELECT** statement

```

SELECT DISTINCT
  first_name
FROM
  contacts
ORDER BY
  first_name;

```

B) Oracle `SELECT DISTINCT` multiple columns

ORDER_ITEMS
* ORDER_ID
* ITEM_ID
PRODUCT_ID
QUANTITY
UNIT_PRICE

selects distinct product id and quantity from the `order_items` table

```

SELECT
  DISTINCT product_id,
  quantity
FROM
  ORDER_ITEMS
ORDER BY
  product_id;

```

C) Oracle `SELECT DISTINCT` and NULL

The `DISTINCT` treats NULL values to be duplicates of each other. If you use the `SELECT DISTINCT` statement to query data from a column that has many NULL values, the result set will include only one NULL value.

LOCATIONS
* LOCATION_ID
ADDRESS
POSTAL_CODE
CITY
STATE
COUNTRY_ID

retrieves data from the state column, which has many NULL values:

```
SELECT
    DISTINCT state
FROM
    locations
ORDER BY
    state NULLS FIRST;
```