✨ Most Candidates Fail This "Simple" SQL Join Question ✨  
  
When I take interviews, I love asking one SQL question.  
It looks so simple that almost everyone feels confident...  
But within minutes, confusion takes over.  
  
👉 “Without writing code, just tell me the row counts for INNER, LEFT, RIGHT, FULL OUTER, and CROSS JOIN.”  
  
🔎 What Happens Next  
  
Most candidates rush.  
  
Some forget that duplicates multiply rows.  
  
Others forget that NULLs never join.  
  
And suddenly, this “easy” question doesn’t look so easy anymore.  
  
✅ The Correct Answer  
  
INNER JOIN → 15  
  
LEFT JOIN → 15  
  
RIGHT JOIN → 17  
  
FULL OUTER JOIN → 17  
  
CROSS JOIN → 25  
  
💡 The Real Lesson  
SQL is not just about syntax—it’s about thinking like SQL.  
  
Always ask yourself:  
  
How many rows are on the left?  
  
How many rows are on the right?  
  
Do they all have matches?  
  
Are NULLs involved?

