How a junior data analyst uses SQL

In this reading, you will learn more about how to decide when to use SQL, or Structured Query Language. As
analyst, you will be tasked with handling a lot of data, and SQL is one of the tools that can help make your w
easier. SQL is the primary way data analysts extract data from databases. As a data analyst, you will work wit
databases all the time, which is why SQL is such a key skill. Let's follow along as a junior data analyst uses SC
solve a business task.

The business task and context

The junior data analyst in this example works for a social media company. A new business model was impler
on February 15, 2020 and the company wants to understand how their user-growth compares to the previou
Specifically, the data analyst was asked to find out how many users have joined since February 15, 2020.

Spreadsheets functions and formulas or SQL queries?

Before they can address this question, this data analyst needs to choose what tool to use. First, they have to
about where the data lives. If it is stored in a database, then SQL is the best tool for the job. But if it is stored i
spreadsheet, then they will have to perform their analysis in that spreadsheet. In that scenario, they could cr
pivot table of the data and then apply specific formulas and filters to their data until they were given the nun
users that joined after February 15th. It isn't a really complicated process, but it would involve a lot of steps.

In this case, the data is stored in a database, so they will have to work with SQL. And this data analyst knows
could get the same results with a single SQL query:

```
1    SELECT
2        COUNT(DISTINCT user id) AS count of unique users
```