The five critical differences between SQL vs NoSQL are:

**1.** SQL databases are relational, NoSQL databases are non-relational.  
**2.** SQL databases use structured query language and have a predefined schema. NoSQL databases have dynamic schemas for unstructured data.  
**3.** SQL databases are vertically scalable, while NoSQL databases are horizontally scalable.  
**4.** SQL databases are table-based, while NoSQL databases are document, key-value, graph, or wide-column stores.  
**5.** SQL databases are better for multi-row transactions, while NoSQL is better for unstructured data like documents or JSON.