Retrieving Data Using the SQL `SELECT` Statement

Objectives

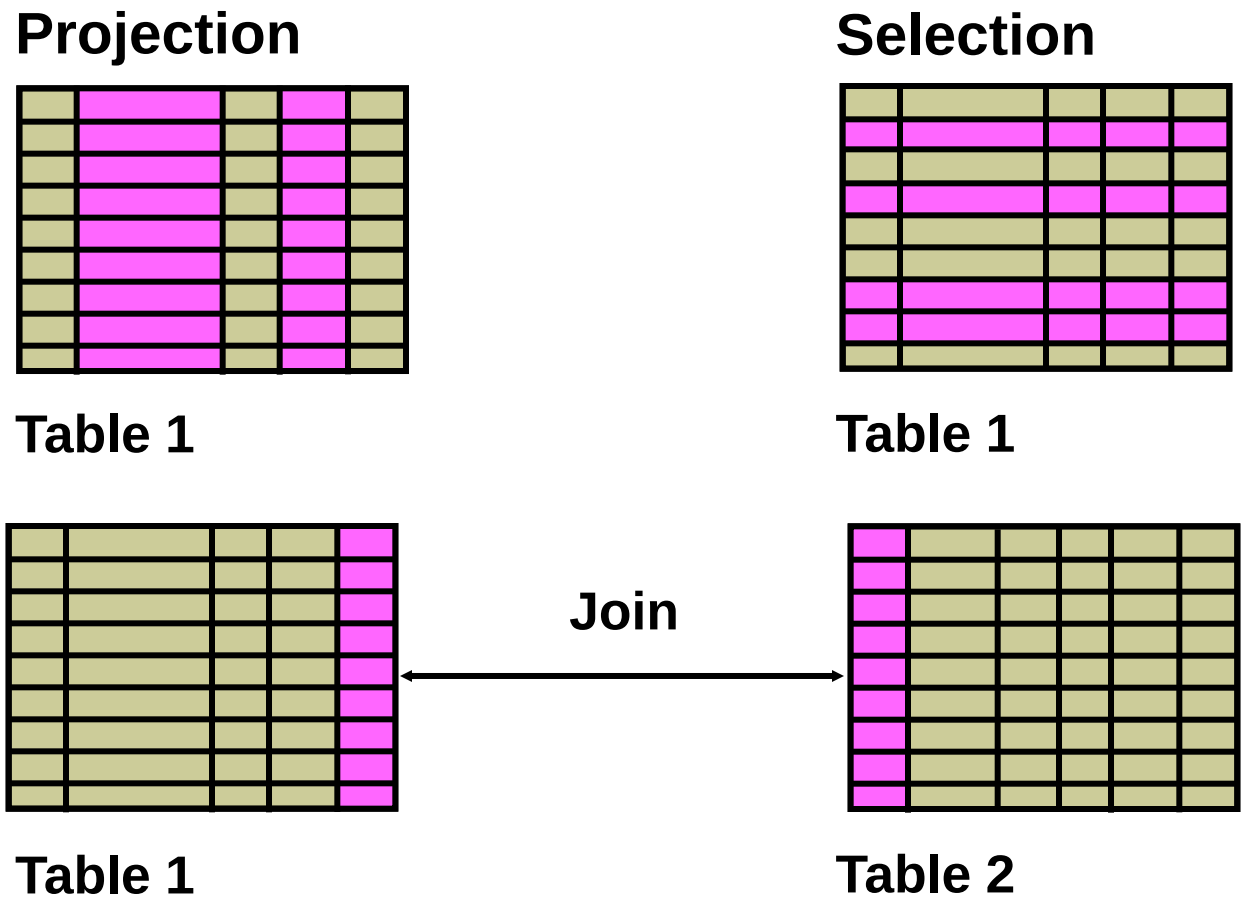
After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- List the capabilities of SQL `SELECT` statements
- Execute a basic `SELECT` statement

Lesson Agenda

- Basic `SELECT` statement
- Arithmetic expressions and `NULL` values in the `SELECT` statement
- Column aliases
- Use of concatenation operator, literal character strings, alternative quote operator, and the `DISTINCT` keyword
- `DESCRIBE` command

Capabilities of SQL `SELECT` Statements



Basic SELECT Statement

```
SELECT *|{[DISTINCT] column|expression [alias],...}
FROM    table;
```

- SELECT identifies the columns to be displayed.
- FROM identifies the table containing those columns.

Selecting All Columns

```
SELECT *
FROM   departments;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME	MANAGER_ID	LOCATION_ID
1	10	Administration	200	1700
2	20	Marketing	201	1800
3	50	Shipping	124	1500
4	60	IT	103	1400
5	80	Sales	149	2500
6	90	Executive	100	1700
7	110	Accounting	205	1700
8	190	Contracting	(null)	1700

Selecting Specific Columns

```
SELECT department_id, location_id
FROM   departments;
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	LOCATION_ID
1	10	1700
2	20	1800
3	50	1500
4	60	1400
5	80	2500
6	90	1700
7	110	1700
8	190	1700

Writing SQL Statements

- SQL statements are not case-sensitive.
- SQL statements can be entered on one or more lines.
- Keywords cannot be abbreviated or split across lines.
- Clauses are usually placed on separate lines.
- Indents are used to enhance readability.
- In SQL Developer, SQL statements can optionally be terminated by a semicolon (;). Semicolons are required when you execute multiple SQL statements.
- In SQL*Plus, you are required to end each SQL statement with a semicolon (;).

Column Heading Defaults

- SQL Developer:
  - Default heading alignment: Left-aligned
  - Default heading display: Uppercase
- SQL*Plus:
  - Character and Date column headings are left-aligned.
  - Number column headings are right-aligned.
  - Default heading display: Uppercase

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Arithmetic Expressions

Create expressions with number and date data by using arithmetic operators.

Operator	Description
+	Add
-	Subtract
*	Multiply
/	Divide

Using Arithmetic Operators

```
SELECT last_name, salary, salary + 300
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	SALARY+300
1	King	24000	24300
2	Kochhar	17000	17300
3	De Haan	17000	17300
4	Hunold	9000	9300
5	Ernst	6000	6300
6	Lorentz	4200	4500
7	Mourgos	5800	6100
8	Rajs	3500	3800
9	Davies	3100	3400
10	Matos	2600	2900

...

Operator Precedence

```
SELECT last_name, salary, 12*salary+100
FROM   employees;
```

1

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	12*SALARY+100
1	King	24000	288100
2	Kochhar	17000	204100
3	De Haan	17000	204100

...

```
SELECT last_name, salary, 12*(salary+100)
FROM   employees;
```

2

	LAST_NAME	SALARY	12*(SALARY+100)
1	King	24000	289200
2	Kochhar	17000	205200
3	De Haan	17000	205200

...

Defining a Null Value

- Null is a value that is unavailable, unassigned, unknown, or inapplicable.
- Null is not the same as zero or a blank space.

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary, commission_pct
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT
1	King	AD_PRES	24000	(null)
2	Kochhar	AD_VP	17000	(null)
...				
12	Zlotkey	SA_MAN	10500	0.2
13	Abel	SA_REP	11000	0.3
14	Taylor	SA_REP	8600	0.2
...				
19	Higgins	AC_MGR	12000	(null)
20	Gietz	AC_ACCOUNT	8300	(null)

Null Values in Arithmetic Expressions

Arithmetic expressions containing a null value evaluate to null.

```
SELECT last_name, 12*salary*commission_pct
FROM   employees;
```

	LAST_NAME	12*SALARY*COMMISSION_PCT
1	King	(null)
2	Kochhar	(null)

...

12	Zlotkey	25200
13	Abel	39600
14	Taylor	20640

...

19	Higgins	(null)
20	Gietz	(null)

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Defining a Column Alias

A column alias:

- Renames a column heading
- Is useful with calculations
- Immediately follows the column name (There can also be the optional `AS` keyword between the column name and alias.)
- Requires double quotation marks if it contains spaces or special characters, or if it is case-sensitive

Using Column Aliases

```
SELECT last_name AS name, commission_pct comm
FROM   employees;
```

	NAME	COMM
1	King	(null)
2	Kochhar	(null)
3	De Haan	(null)

...

```
SELECT last_name "Name" , salary*12 "Annual Salary"
FROM   employees;
```

	Name	Annual Salary
1	King	288000
2	Kochhar	204000
3	De Haan	204000

...

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Concatenation Operator

A concatenation operator:

- Links columns or character strings to other columns
- Is represented by two vertical bars (||)
- Creates a resultant column that is a character expression

```
SELECT   last_name||job_id AS "Employees"
FROM     employees;
```

	Employees
1	AbelSA_REP
2	DaviesST_CLERK
3	De HaanAD_VP
4	ErnstIT_PROG
5	FayMK_REP

...

Literal Character Strings

- A literal is a character, a number, or a date that is included in the `SELECT` statement.
- Date and character literal values must be enclosed within single quotation marks.
- Each character string is output once for each row returned.

Using Literal Character Strings

```
SELECT last_name ||' is a '||job_id
       AS "Employee Details"
FROM   employees;
```

	Employee Details
1	Abel is a SA_REP
2	Davies is a ST_CLERK
3	De Haan is a AD_VP
4	Ernst is a IT_PROG
5	Fay is a MK_REP

...

18	Vargas is a ST_CLERK
19	Whalen is a AD_ASST
20	Zlotkey is a SA_MAN

Alternative Quote (q) Operator

- Specify your own quotation mark delimiter.
- Select any delimiter.
- Increase readability and usability.

```
SELECT department_name || ' Department' ||
       q'['s Manager Id: ]'
       || manager_id
       AS "Department and Manager"
FROM departments;
```

	Department and Manager
1	Administration Department's Manager Id:200
2	Marketing Department's Manager Id:201
3	Shipping Department's Manager Id:124
4	IT Department's Manager Id:103
5	Sales Department's Manager Id:149
6	Executive Department's Manager Id:100
7	Accounting Department's Manager Id:205
8	Contracting Department's Manager Id:

Duplicate Rows

The default display of queries is all rows, including duplicate rows.

```
SELECT department_id
FROM   employees;
```

1

	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	90
2	90
3	90
4	60
5	60

...

```
SELECT DISTINCT department_id
FROM   employees;
```

2

	DEPARTMENT_ID
1	(null)
2	90
3	20
4	110

...

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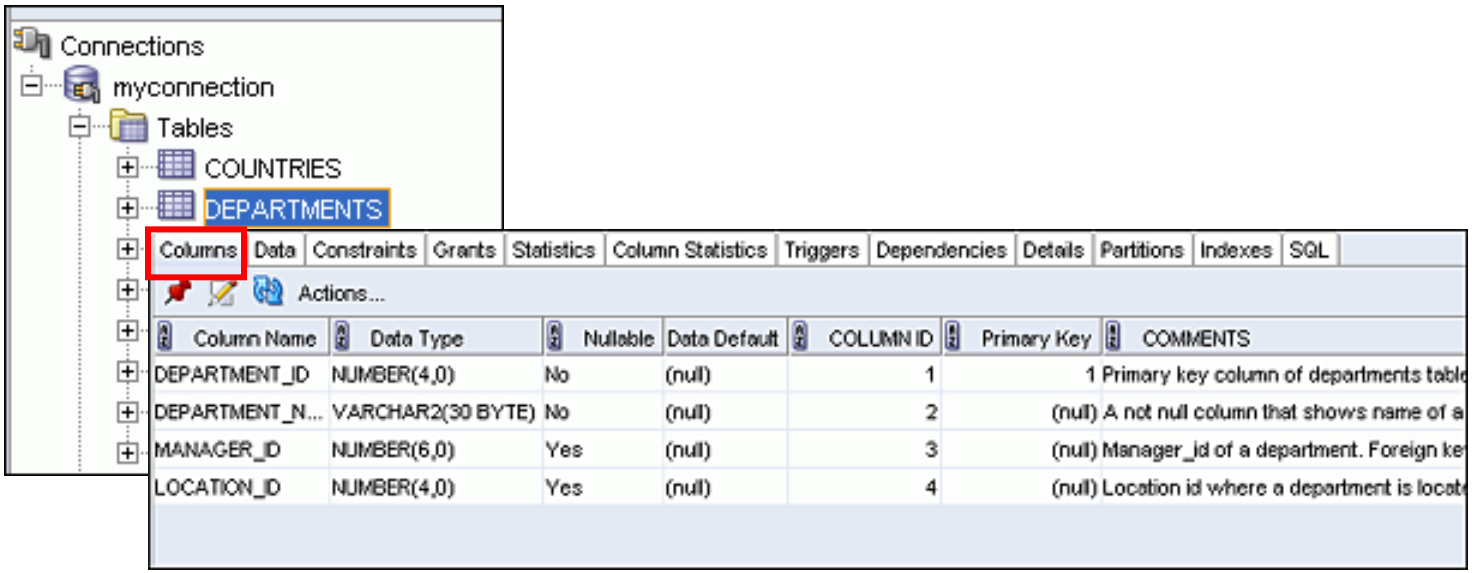
Displaying the Table Structure

- Use the `DESCRIBE` command to display the structure of a table.
- Or, select the table in the Connections tree and use the Columns tab to view the table structure.

```
DESC[RIBE] tablename
```



Using the DESCRIBE Command

```
DESCRIBE employees
```

```
DESCRIBE employees
Name                            Null     Type
------------------------------- -------- ----------------------
EMPLOYEE_ID                     NOT NULL NUMBER(6)
FIRST_NAME                               VARCHAR2(20)
LAST_NAME                       NOT NULL VARCHAR2(25)
EMAIL                           NOT NULL VARCHAR2(25)
PHONE_NUMBER                             VARCHAR2(20)
HIRE_DATE                       NOT NULL DATE
JOB_ID                          NOT NULL VARCHAR2(10)
SALARY                                   NUMBER(8,2)
COMMISSION_PCT                           NUMBER(2,2)
MANAGER_ID                               NUMBER(6)
DEPARTMENT_ID                            NUMBER(4)

11 rows selected
```

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Write a `SELECT` statement that:
  - Returns all rows and columns from a table
  - Returns specified columns from a table
  - Uses column aliases to display more descriptive column headings

```
SELECT *|{[DISTINCT] column|expression [alias],...}
FROM table;
```

Practice 1: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Selecting all data from different tables
- Describing the structure of tables
- Performing arithmetic calculations and specifying column names