4

Using Subqueries to Solve Queries

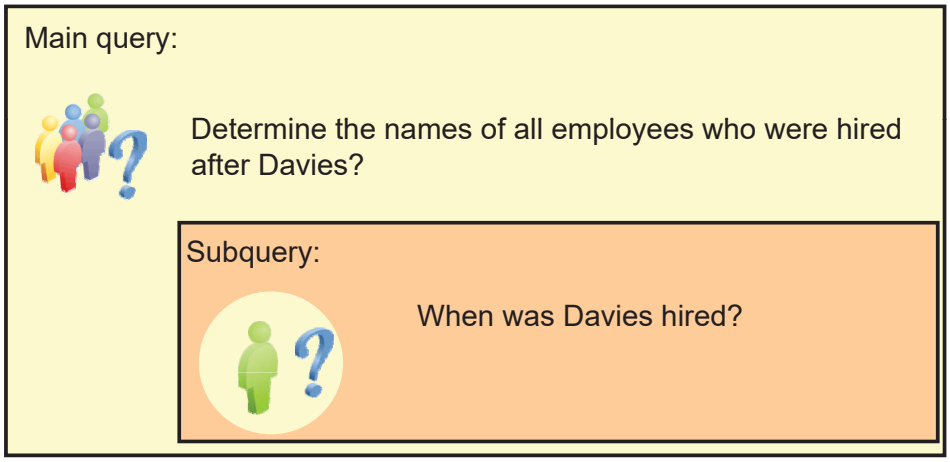
Objectives

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

- Define subqueries
- Describe the types of problems that the subqueries can solve
- List the types of subqueries
- Write single-row, multiple-row, multiple-column subqueries

Using a Subquery to Solve a Problem

Who is hired after Davies?



Subquery Syntax

- The subquery (inner query) executes *before* the main query (outer query).
- The result of the subquery is used by the main query.

```
SELECT   select_list
FROM     table
WHERE    expr operator
                    (SELECT      select_list
                    FROM         table);
```

Using a Subquery

```
SELECT last_name, hire_date
FROM   employees
WHERE  hire_date > (SELECT hire_date
                    FROM   employees
                    WHERE  last_name = 'Davies');
```

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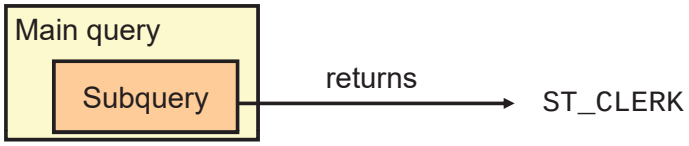
Rules and Guidelines for Using Subqueries

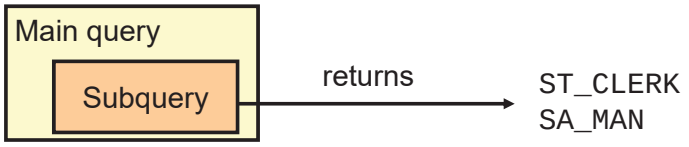
- Enclose subqueries in parentheses.
- Place subqueries on the right side of the comparison condition for readability. (However, the subquery can appear on either side of the comparison operator.)
- Use single-row operators with single-row subqueries and multiple-row operators with multiple-row subqueries.

Types of Subqueries

- Single-row subquery



- Multiple-row subquery



Single-Row Subqueries

- Return only one row
- Use single-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
=	Equal to
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
<>	Not equal to

Executing Single-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =                    SA_REP
               (SELECT job_id
                FROM   employees
                WHERE  last_name = 'Taylor')
AND    salary >                    8600
               (SELECT salary
                FROM   employees
                WHERE  last_name = 'Taylor');
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	Abel	SA_REP	11000

Using Group Functions in a Subquery

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =                    2500
               (SELECT MIN(salary)
                FROM   employees);
```

	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

HAVING Clause with Subqueries

- The Oracle server executes the subqueries first.
- The Oracle server returns results into the HAVING clause of the main query.

```
SELECT   department_id, MIN(salary)
FROM     employees
GROUP BY department_id
HAVING   MIN(salary) >          2500
                        (SELECT MIN(salary)
                         FROM   employees
                         WHERE  department_id = 30);
```

	DEPARTMENT_ID	MIN(SALARY)
1	100	6900
2	(null)	7000
3	90	17000
4	20	6000
5	70	10000
6	110	8300
7	80	6100
8	40	6500
9	60	4200
10	10	4400

What Is Wrong with This Statement?

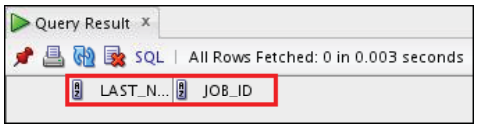
```
SELECT employee_id, last_name
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =
                (SELECT   MIN(salary)
                 FROM     employees
                 GROUP BY department_id);
```

```
ORA-01427: single-row subquery returns more than one row
01427. 00000 - "single-row subquery returns more than one row"
*Cause:
*Action:
```

Single-row operator with multiple-row subquery

No Rows Returned by the Inner Query

```
SELECT last_name, job_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =
                (SELECT job_id
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  last_name = 'Haas');
```



Subquery returns no rows because there is no employee named “Haas.”

Multiple-Row Subqueries

- Return more than one row
- Use multiple-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
IN	Equal to any member in the list
ANY	Must be preceded by =, !=, >, <, <=, >=. Returns TRUE if at least one element exists in the result set of the subquery for which the relation is TRUE.
ALL	Must be preceded by =, !=, >, <, <=, >=. Returns TRUE if the relation is TRUE for all elements in the result set of the subquery.

Using the ANY Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary < ANY
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

9000, 6000, 4200

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500
2	143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
3	142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
4	141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
5	200	Whalen	AD_ASST	4400

...

9	206	Gietz	AC_ACCOUNT	8300
10	176	Taylor	SA_REP	8600

Using the ALL Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary < ALL
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

9000, 6000, 4200

	EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
1	141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
2	142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
3	143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
4	144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

Multiple-Column Subqueries

- A multiple-column subquery returns more than one column to the outer query.
- Column comparisons in multiple column comparisons can be pairwise or nonpairwise.
- A multiple-column subquery can also be used in the `FROM` clause of a `SELECT` statement.

Multiple-Column Subquery: Example

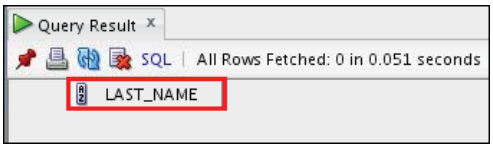
Display all the employees with the lowest salary in each department

```
SELECT first_name, department_id, salary
FROM employees
WHERE (salary, department_id) IN
      (SELECT min(salary), department_id
       FROM employees
       GROUP BY department_id)
ORDER BY department_id;
```

	FIRST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID	SALARY
1	Jennifer	10	4400
2	Pat	20	6000
3	Peter	50	2500
4	Diana	60	4200
5	Jonathon	80	8600
6	Neena	90	17000
7	Lex	90	17000
8	William	110	8300

Null Values in a Subquery

```
SELECT emp.last_name
FROM   employees emp
WHERE  emp.employee_id NOT IN
                           (SELECT mgr.manager_id
                            FROM   employees mgr);
```



Subquery returns no rows because one of the values returned by a subquery is null.

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Define subqueries
- Identify the types of problems that the subqueries can solve
- Write single-row, multiple-row, multiple-column subqueries