In database programming, a view is representative of a virtual table created via select and join statements. It is not stored in the database itself and is simply a representation of the data to be utilized. Stored procedures differ from views in that they are saved SQL Queries. This means that the view is representative of data retrieved from the database, and stored procedures are representative of viable SQL queries to access data from the database.

A materialized view is very similar in functionality to a view with one major difference. Similarly to a view, it is a representative of data pulled from one or more tables, but unlike the view, the materialized view is actually stored on the disk. This results in better performance for data that is accessed frequently. If the data is not accessed frequently, it's more logical to use a normal view as this won't waste time and space storing the view.