1. **Your query for counting the number of employees is correct:**

sql

Copy code

SELECT COUNT(\*) FROM employees;

1. **Your second query has a typo. It should be:**

sql

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SELECT COUNT(employee) FROM employees;

However, this query would count only the non-NULL values in the employee column.

### Meaning of \* in COUNT(\*):

The \* in COUNT(\*) means that it counts all rows in the table, regardless of whether any columns are NULL. It provides a total row count.