Note

To use a block nested loop or batched key access hint to enable join buffering for any inner table of an outer join, join buffering must be enabled for all inner tables of the outer join.

- *tbl_name*: The name of a table used in the statement. The hint applies to all tables that it names. If the hint names no tables, it applies to all tables of the query block in which it occurs.

  If a table has an alias, hints must refer to the alias, not the table name.

  Table names in hints cannot be qualified with schema names.

- *query_block_name*: The query block to which the hint applies. If the hint includes no leading @*query_block_name*, the hint applies to the query block in which it occurs. For *tbl_name*@*query_block_name* syntax, the hint applies to the named table in the named query block. To assign a name to a query block, see Optimizer Hints for Naming Query Blocks.

Examples:

```
SELECT /*+ NO_BKA(t1, t2) */ t1.* FROM t1 INNER JOIN t2 INNER JOIN t3;
SELECT /*+ NO_BNL() BKA(t1) */ t1.* FROM t1 INNER JOIN t2 INNER JOIN t3;
SELECT /*+ NO_MERGE(dt) */ * FROM (SELECT * FROM t1) AS dt;
```

A table-level hint applies to tables that receive records from previous tables, not sender tables. Consider this statement:

```
SELECT /*+ BNL(t2) */ FROM t1, t2;
```

If the optimizer chooses to process `t1` first, it applies a Block Nested-Loop join to `t2` by buffering the rows from `t1` before starting to read from `t2`. If the optimizer instead chooses to process `t2` first, the hint has no effect because `t2` is a sender table.

For the `MERGE` and `NO_MERGE` hints, these precedence rules apply:

- A hint takes precedence over any optimizer heuristic that is not a technical constraint. (If providing a hint as a suggestion has no effect, the optimizer has a reason for ignoring it.)
- A hint takes precedence over the `derived_merge` flag of the `optimizer_switch` system variable.
- For view references, an `ALGORITHM={MERGE|TEMPTABLE}` clause in the view definition takes precedence over a hint specified in the query referencing the view.

Index-Level Optimizer Hints

Index-level hints affect which index-processing strategies the optimizer uses for particular tables or indexes. These hint types affect use of Index Condition Pushdown (ICP), Multi-Range Read (MRR), Index Merge, and range optimizations (see Section 8.2.1, “Optimizing SELECT Statements”).

Syntax of index-level hints:

```
hint_name([@query_block_name] tbl_name [index_name [, index_name] ...])
hint_name(tbl_name@query_block_name [index_name [, index_name] ...])
```

The syntax refers to these terms:

- *hint_name*: These hint names are permitted: