

“Optimizing Derived Tables, View References, and Common Table Expressions with Merging or Materialization”).

- `INNER JOIN` and `,` (comma) are semantically equivalent in the absence of a join condition: both produce a Cartesian product between the specified tables (that is, each and every row in the first table is joined to each and every row in the second table).

However, the precedence of the comma operator is less than that of `INNER JOIN`, `CROSS JOIN`, `LEFT JOIN`, and so on. If you mix comma joins with the other join types when there is a join condition, an error of the form `Unknown column 'col_name' in 'on clause'` may occur. Information about dealing with this problem is given later in this section.

- The `search_condition` used with `ON` is any conditional expression of the form that can be used in a `WHERE` clause. Generally, the `ON` clause serves for conditions that specify how to join tables, and the `WHERE` clause restricts which rows to include in the result set.
- If there is no matching row for the right table in the `ON` or `USING` part in a `LEFT JOIN`, a row with all columns set to `NULL` is used for the right table. You can use this fact to find rows in a table that have no counterpart in another table:

```
SELECT left_tbl.*
FROM left_tbl LEFT JOIN right_tbl ON left_tbl.id = right_tbl.id
WHERE right_tbl.id IS NULL;
```

This example finds all rows in `left_tbl` with an `id` value that is not present in `right_tbl` (that is, all rows in `left_tbl` with no corresponding row in `right_tbl`). See [Section 8.2.1.9, “Outer Join Optimization”](#).

- The `USING(join_column_list)` clause names a list of columns that must exist in both tables. If tables `a` and `b` both contain columns `c1`, `c2`, and `c3`, the following join compares corresponding columns from the two tables:

```
a LEFT JOIN b USING (c1, c2, c3)
```

- The `NATURAL [LEFT] JOIN` of two tables is defined to be semantically equivalent to an `INNER JOIN` or a `LEFT JOIN` with a `USING` clause that names all columns that exist in both tables.
- `RIGHT JOIN` works analogously to `LEFT JOIN`. To keep code portable across databases, it is recommended that you use `LEFT JOIN` instead of `RIGHT JOIN`.
- The `{ OJ ... }` syntax shown in the join syntax description exists only for compatibility with ODBC. The curly braces in the syntax should be written literally; they are not metasyntax as used elsewhere in syntax descriptions.

```
SELECT left_tbl.*
FROM { OJ left_tbl LEFT OUTER JOIN right_tbl
      ON left_tbl.id = right_tbl.id }
WHERE right_tbl.id IS NULL;
```

You can use other types of joins within `{ OJ ... }`, such as `INNER JOIN` or `RIGHT OUTER JOIN`. This helps with compatibility with some third-party applications, but is not official ODBC syntax.

- `STRAIGHT_JOIN` is similar to `JOIN`, except that the left table is always read before the right table. This can be used for those (few) cases for which the join optimizer processes the tables in a suboptimal order.

Some join examples:

```
SELECT * FROM table1, table2;
```