

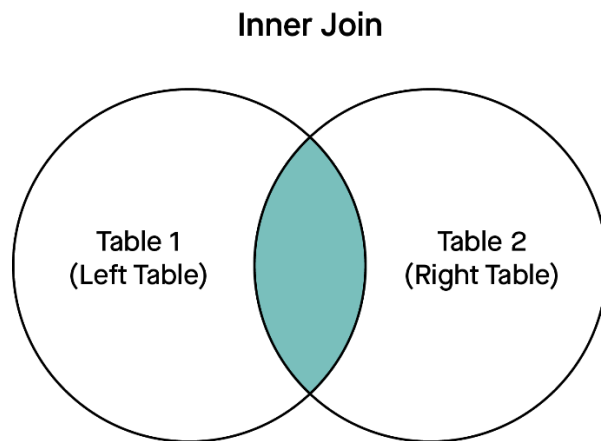
The INNER JOIN command

So far, you've seen **LEFT JOIN** and **RIGHT JOIN**. And in this lesson, you'll get an introduction to **INNER JOIN**. Every join does the same basic action: it combines tables using a shared column as the link between the tables. The difference between the various join commands is the data that is returned to you in the output. The **INNER JOIN** command returns only records that have a match.

INNER JOIN

The **INNER JOIN** command returns only records that have a match in both the left table (Table 1) and the right table (Table 2). If there are no matches at all, then no records are returned! This is useful when you want to see only matching records and don't care about anything that doesn't match. You might find this useful when you have two tables of related data and want to see which records have attributes across both tables.

The Venn diagram below shows the data that is returned from an **INNER JOIN**. The returned data is represented by the teal shaded area.



This is the structure of **INNER JOIN**:

```
1 SELECT column_name(s)
2 FROM table1_name
3 INNER JOIN table2_name
4 ON table1.column_name = table2.column_name;
```

The **INNER JOIN** command specifies that an **INNER JOIN** should take place. The **INNER JOIN** clause specifies the second table to be used in the join. The **ON** clause specifies the column names in Table 1 and Table 2 that are used to link the tables.

Remember that the names of the columns that you're joining on can be different. As long as the same values are present in both columns, the tables can be joined.