

SQL - Joins & Union

Overview

- Understand what a JOIN is and why it's needed.
- Use INNER JOIN, LEFT JOIN, RIGHT JOIN.
- Write queries that combine data from related tables.
- Understand the difference between JOIN and UNION.
- Practice writing SQL queries using the school database.



What is a JOIN?

- A **JOIN** combines data from two or more tables based on a related column between them - usually a **foreign key** in one table referencing a **primary key** in another.
- Instead of viewing tables separately, we can see how the data connects.
- Example: By joining the id column from the classes table with the class_id column from the students table, we can display the class name in the student results.

id	full_name	class_id
1	Jennifer Thomas	2
2	Linda Martinez	2
6	Laura Martinez	4
20	Robert Martinez	3

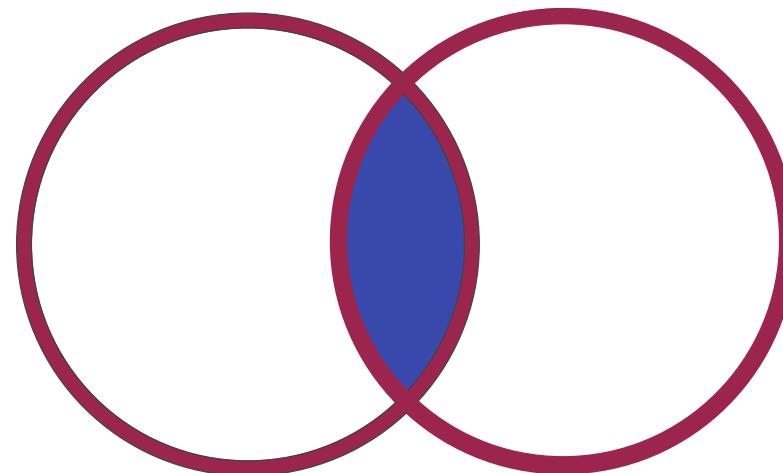
id	full_name	class_id	class
1	Jennifer Thomas	2	B
2	Linda Martinez	2	B
6	Laura Martinez	4	D
20	Robert Martinez	3	C

id	class
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D

INNER JOIN

Matching Data from Two Tables

- INNER JOIN returns only the rows that have matching **values in both tables**.
- If a record exists in one table but not in the other, it will not appear in the result.

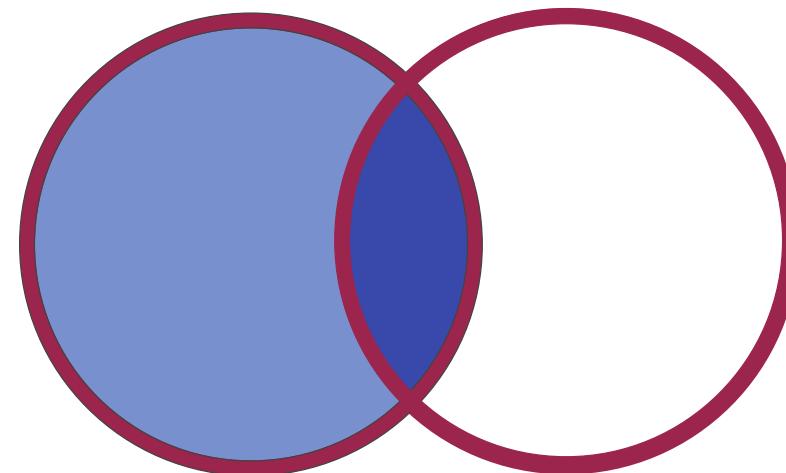


```
SELECT students.full_name, classes.class  
FROM students  
INNER JOIN classes  
ON students.class_id = classes.id;
```

LEFT JOIN

All Records from the Left Table

- LEFT JOIN returns all rows from the left table, and the matching rows from the right table.
- If there's no match, the result will still include the left row, but with NULL values for the right table's columns.

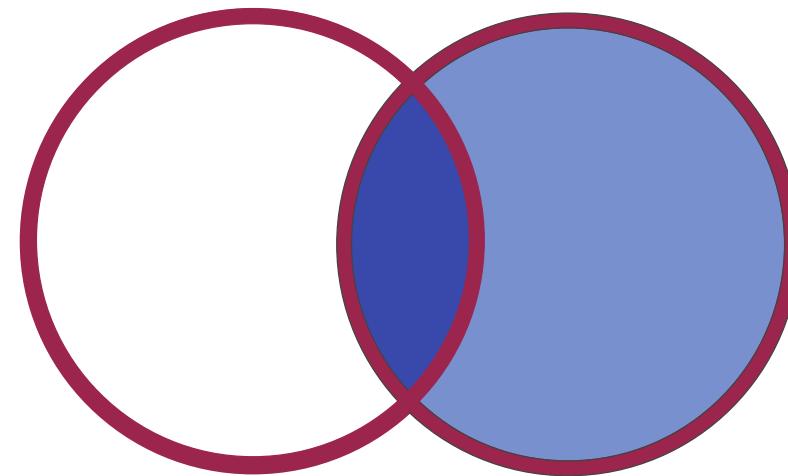


```
SELECT students.full_name, classes.class
FROM students
LEFT JOIN classes
ON students.class_id = classes.id;
```

RIGHT JOIN

All Records from the Right Table

- RIGHT JOIN returns all rows from the right table, and the matching rows from the left table.
- If there's no match, the result will still include the right row, but with NULL values for the left table's columns.

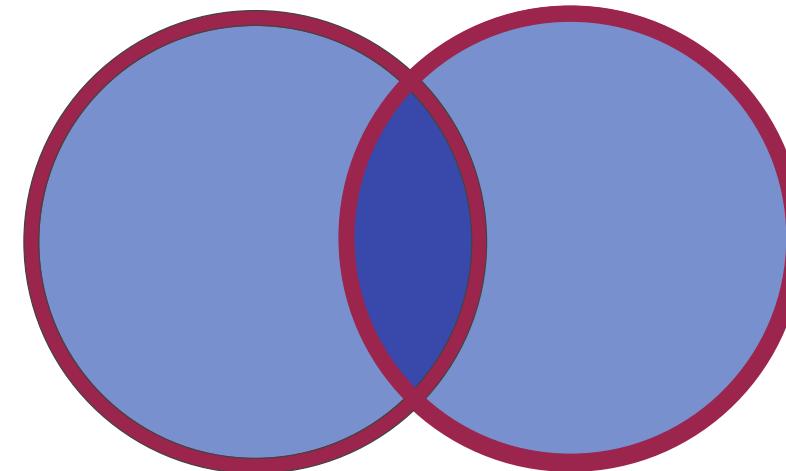


```
SELECT students.full_name, classes.class  
FROM students  
RIGHT JOIN classes  
ON students.class_id = classes.id;
```

FULL JOIN

All Records from Both Tables

- FULL JOIN returns all rows from both tables, whether or not there's a match.
- If a record exists only in one table, the result will still include it - with NULLs for the missing side.
- In most SQL systems (like PostgreSQL, SQL Server, Oracle) you can use FULL JOIN directly.

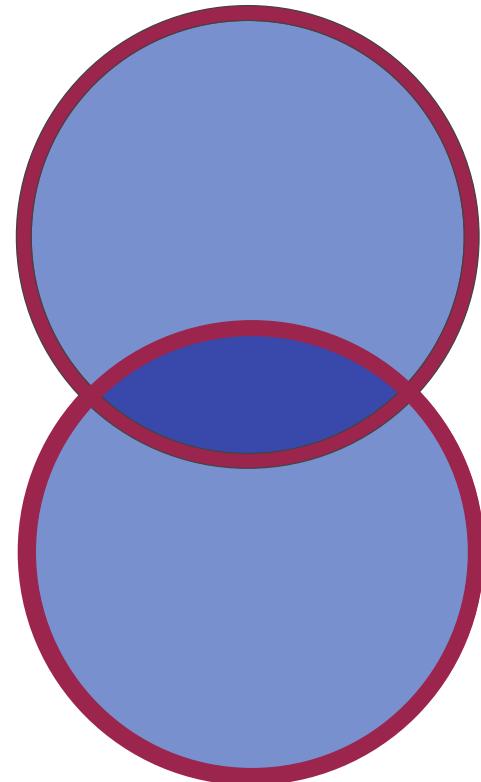


```
SELECT students.full_name, classes.class  
FROM students  
LEFT JOIN classes  
ON students.class_id = classes.id  
  
UNION  
  
SELECT students.full_name, classes.class  
FROM students  
RIGHT JOIN classes  
ON students.class_id = classes.id;
```

UNION

Combine Results from Multiple Queries

- UNION is used to combine the results of two or more SELECT statements.
- Unlike JOIN, which merges tables side by side, UNION stacks the results one on top of another.
- UNION removes duplicates automatically.
- Each query inside the UNION must have:
 - The same number of columns.
 - The same or compatible data types.
 - Columns in the same order.



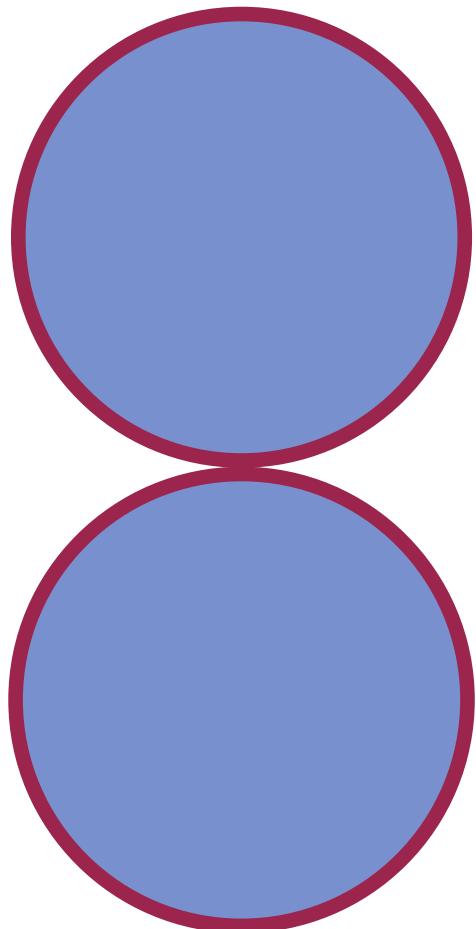
```
SELECT id, full_name, class_id FROM students  
UNION  
SELECT id, full_name, class_id FROM students_new;
```

UNION ALL

Combine Results - Include Duplicate

- UNION ALL works just like UNION, but it does not remove duplicate rows.
- It simply combines all results from both queries - even if some rows are identical.

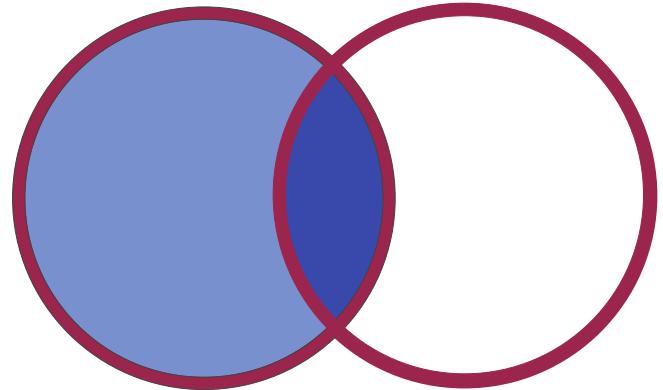
```
SELECT column1, column2 FROM table1  
UNION ALL  
SELECT column1, column2 FROM table2;
```



Type of JOINS & UNIONs?

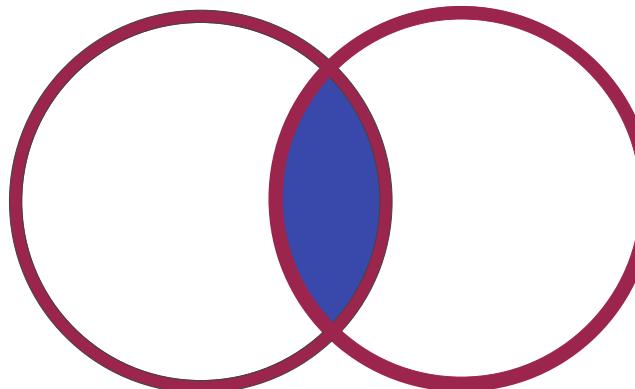
LEFT JOIN

Returns all rows from the left table, and matches from the right.



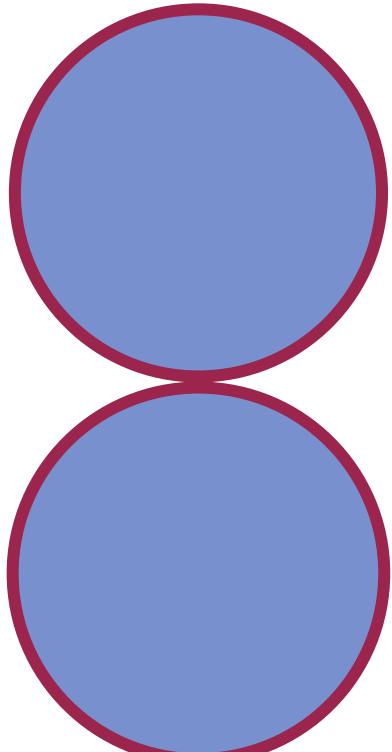
INNER JOIN

Returns rows that exist in both tables.



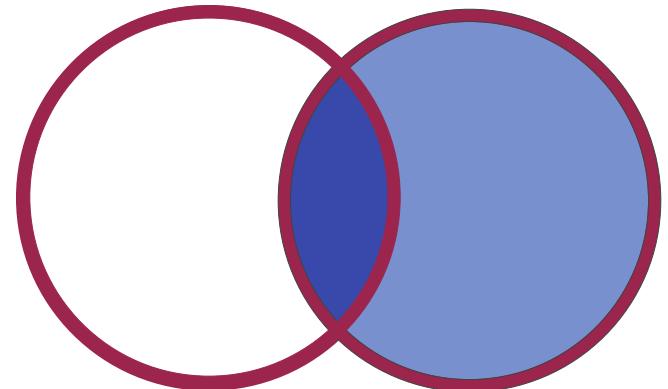
UNION ALL

Combines query results including duplicates.



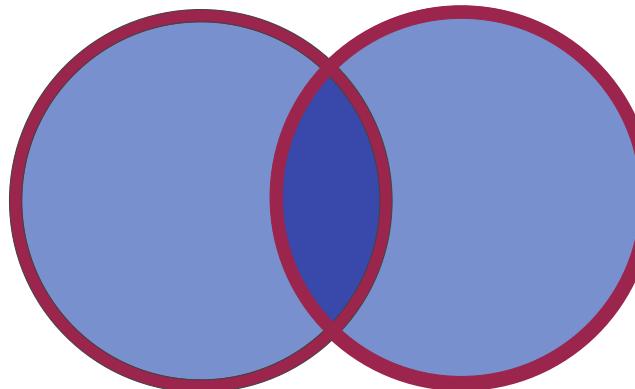
RIGHT JOIN

Returns all rows from the right table, and matching rows from the left.



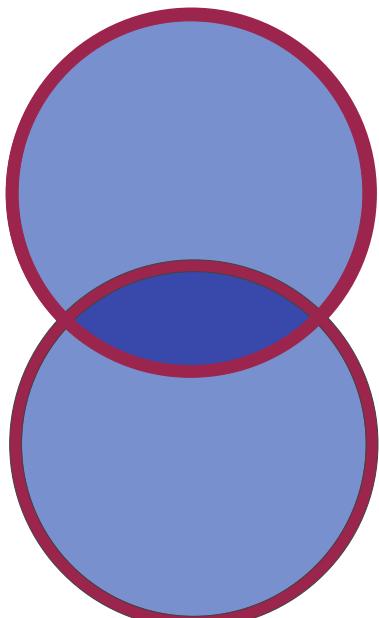
FULL JOIN

Returns all rows from both matched and unmatched rows.



UNION

Combines query results vertically and remove duplicates.



Class Exercises

1. Get a list of all students and their class names. If a student doesn't belong to any class, display NULL instead.
2. Get a list of all students with valid classes only. Show each student's name and class.
3. Combine all students from both tables - students and students_new - into one unified list, without duplicates.

Summary

- Combine data from multiple tables using different types of JOINs to enrich the result with more columns.
- Combine query results vertically with UNION.
- Understand that:
 - JOIN adds columns (horizontal merge).
 - UNION adds rows (vertical merge).