EXERCISE-11

CREATING VIEWS

After the completion of this exercise, students will be able to do the following:

- Describe a view
- Create, alter the definition of, and drop a view
- Retrieve data through a view
- Insert, update, and delete data through a view
- Create and use an inline view

View

A view is a logical table based on a table or another view. A view contains no data but is like a window through which data from tables can be viewed or changed.The tables on which a view is based are called base tables.

Advantages of Views

- To restrict data access
- To make complex queries easy
- To provide data independence
- To present different views of the same data

Classification of views

1. Simple view
2. Complex view

Feature	Simple	Complex
No. of tables	One	One or more
Contains functions	No	Yes
Contains groups of data	No	Yes
DML operations thr' view	Yes	Not always

Creating a view

Syntax

CREATE OR REPLACE FORCE/NOFORCE VIEW view_name AS Subquery WITH CHECK OPTION CONSTRAINT constraint WITH READ ONLY CONSTRAINT constraint;

FORCE - Creates the view regardless of whether or not the base tables exist.

NOFORCE - Creates the view only if the ase table exist.

WITH CHECK OPTION CONSTRAINT-specifies that only rows accessible to the view can be inserted or updated.

WITH READ ONLY CONSTRAINT-ensures that no DML operations can be performed on the view.

Example: 1 (Without using Column aliases)

Create a view EMPVU80 that contains details of employees in department80.

- Group By clause
- Distinct keyword
- Columns contain by expressions
- NOT NULL columns in the base table that are not selected by the view

Example: (Using the WITH CHECK OPTION clause)

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW empvu20
AS    SELECT *
FROM employees
WHERE department_id=20
WITH CHECK OPTION CONSTRAINT empvu20_ck;
```

Note: Any attempt to change the department number for any row in the view fails because it violates the WITH CHECK OPTION constraint.

Example – (Execute this and note the error)

```
UPDATE empvu20 SET department_id=10 WHERE employee_id=201;
```

Denying DML operations

Use of WITH READ ONLY option.
Any attempt to perform a DML on any row in the view results in an oracle server error.

Try this code:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW empvu10(employee_number, employee_name,job_title)
AS SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id
FROM employees
WHERE department_id=10
WITH READ ONLY;
```

Find the Solution for the following:

1. Create a view called EMPLOYEE_VU based on the employee numbers, employee names and department numbers from the EMPLOYEES table. Change the heading for the employee name to EMPLOYEE.

```
CREATE VIEW employee_vu AS SELECT employee_id,
last_name AS employee, department_id FROM employees;
```

2. Display the contents of the EMPLOYEES_VU view.

```
SELECT * FROM employee_vu;
```

3. Select the view name and text from the USER_VIEWS data dictionary views.

```
SELECT view_name, text FROM user_views;
```

4. Using your EMPLOYEES_VU view, enter a query to display all employees names and department.

```
SELECT employee, department_id FROM employee_vu;
```

5. Create a view named DEPT50 that contains the employee number, employee last names and department numbers for all employees in department 50.Label the view columns EMPNO, EMPLOYEE and DEPTNO. Do not allow an employee to be reassigned to another department through the view.

```
CREATE VIEW dept50 AS SELECT employee_id AS EMPLO,
last_name AS EMPLOYEE, department_id AS deptno FROM
employees WHERE department_id =50 WITH READ ONLY;
```

6. Display the structure and contents of the DEPT50 view.

```
DESC dept50;
SELECT * FROM dept50;
```

7. Attempt to reassign Matos to department 80.

```
UPDATE dept50 SET deptno=80 WHERE employee = 'Matos';
```

8. Create a view called SALARY_VU based on the employee last names, department names, salaries, and salary grades for all employees. Use the Employees, DEPARTMENTS and JOB_GRADE tables. Label the column Employee, Department, salary, and Grade respectively.

```
CREATE VIEW salary_vu AS SELECT e.last_name AS employee,
d.department_name AS department, e.salary AS salary,
j.grade_level AS grade FROM employees e
JOIN departments d ON e.department_id = d.department_id
JOIN job_grades j ON e.salary BETWEEN j.lowest_sal AND
                                      j.highest_sal;
```