Using Subqueries to Solve Queries

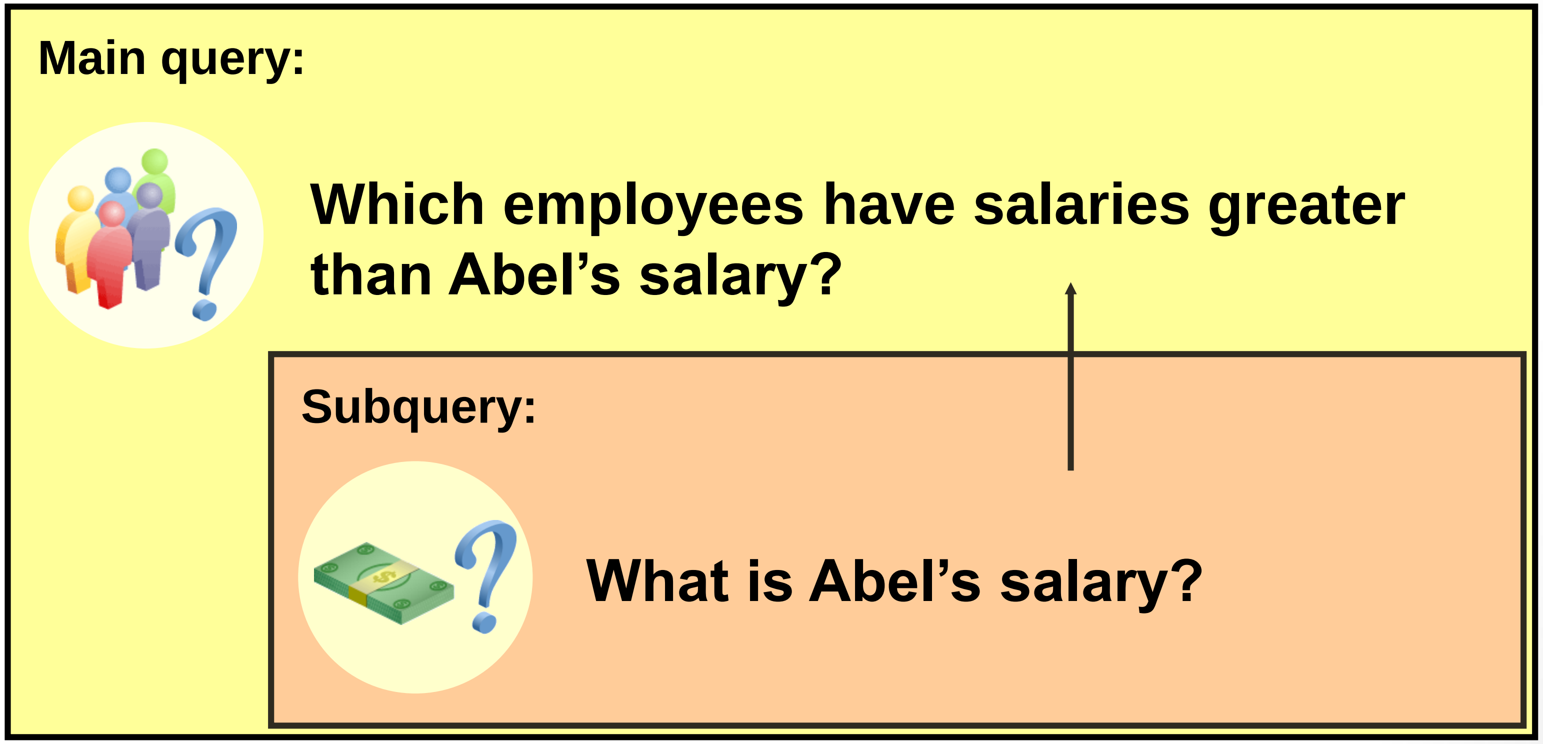
by ABHISHEK SHARMA

Objectives

- After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:
  - Define subqueries
  - Describe the types of problems that subqueries can solve
  - List the types of subqueries
  - Write single-row and multiple-row subqueries

Using a Subquery to Solve a Problem

- Who has a salary greater than Abel's?



Main query:

Which employees have salaries greater than Abel's salary?

Subquery:

What is Abel's salary?

Subquery Syntax

```
SELECT   select_list
FROM     table
WHERE    expr operator
                        (SELECT      select_list
                         FROM        table);
```

- The subquery (inner query) executes once before the main query (outer query).
- The result of the subquery is used by the main query.

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Using a Subquery

```
SELECT last_name
FROM   employees          11000
WHERE  salary >
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  last_name = 'Abel');
```

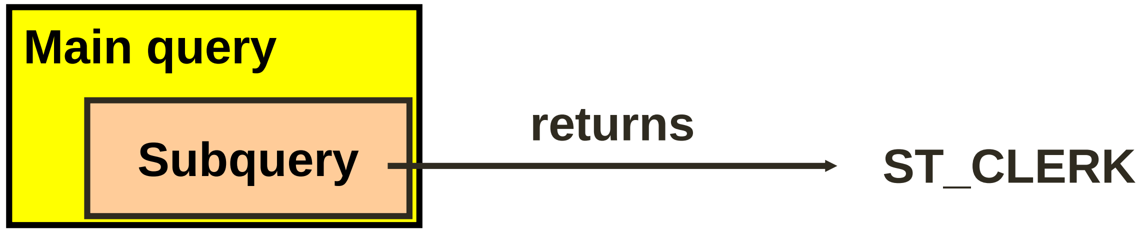
LAST_NAME
King
Kochhar
De Haan
Hartstein
Higgins

Guidelines for Using Subqueries

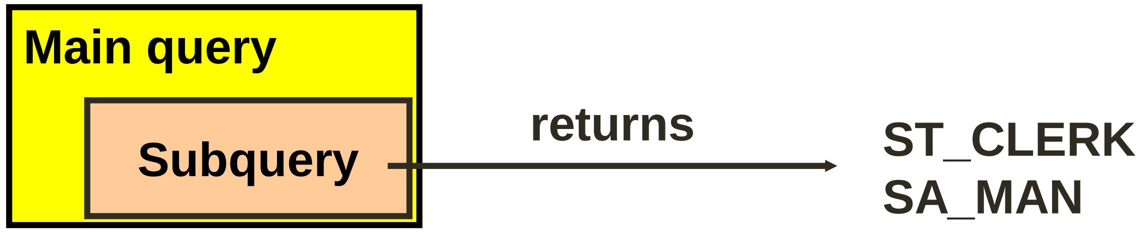
- Enclose subqueries in parentheses.
- Place subqueries on the right side of the comparison condition.
- The `ORDER BY` clause in the subquery is not needed unless you are performing Top-N analysis.
- Use single-row operators with single-row subqueries, and use multiple-row operators with
  multiple-row subqueries.

Types of Subqueries

- Single-row subquery



- Multiple-row subquery

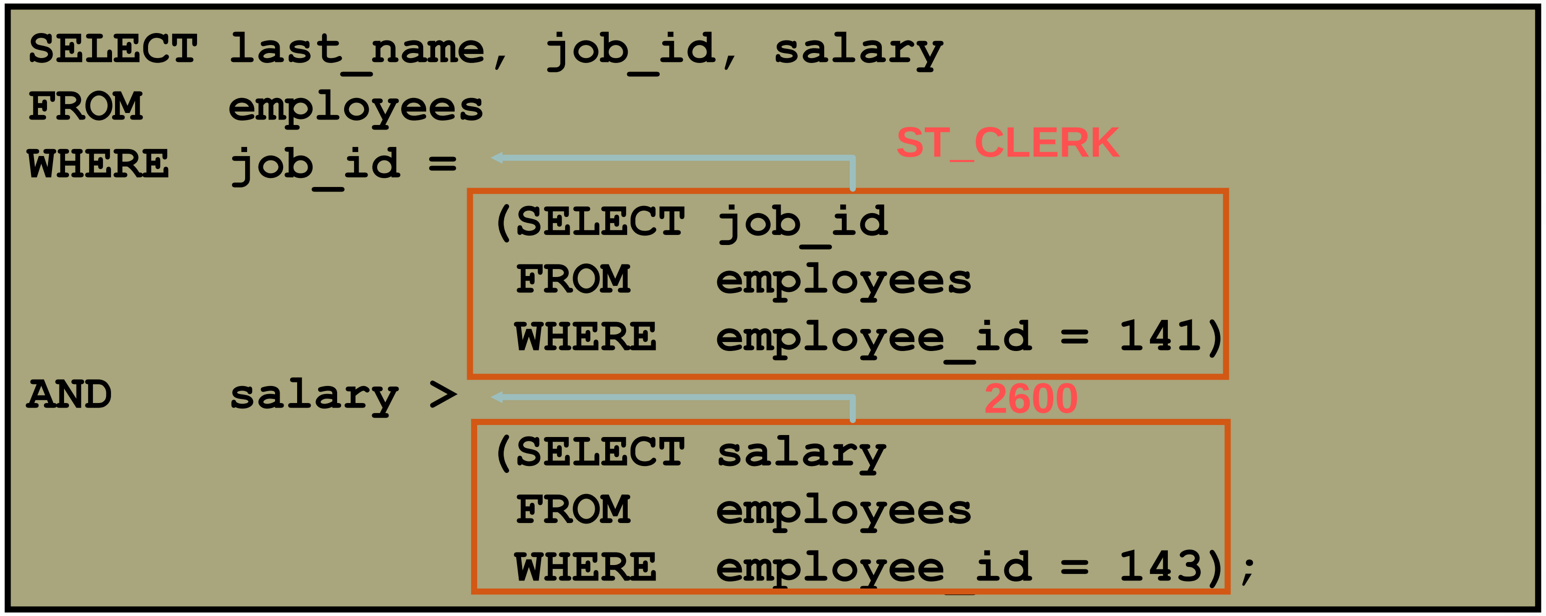


Single-Row Subqueries

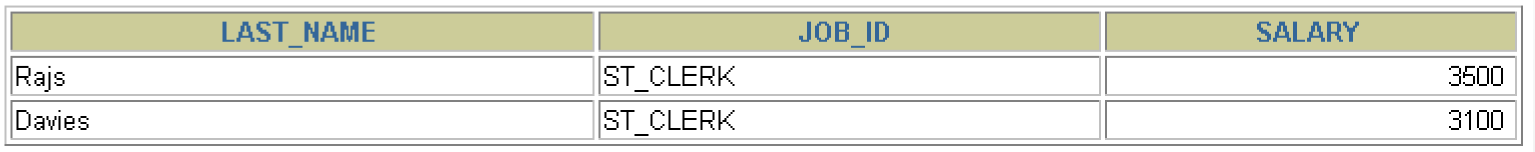
- Return only one row
- Use single-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
=	Equal to
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
<>	Not equal to

Executing Single-Row Subqueries



```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =
                (SELECT job_id
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  employee_id = 141)
AND    salary >
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  employee_id = 143);
```



LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
Davies	ST_CLERK	3100

Using Group Functions in a Subquery

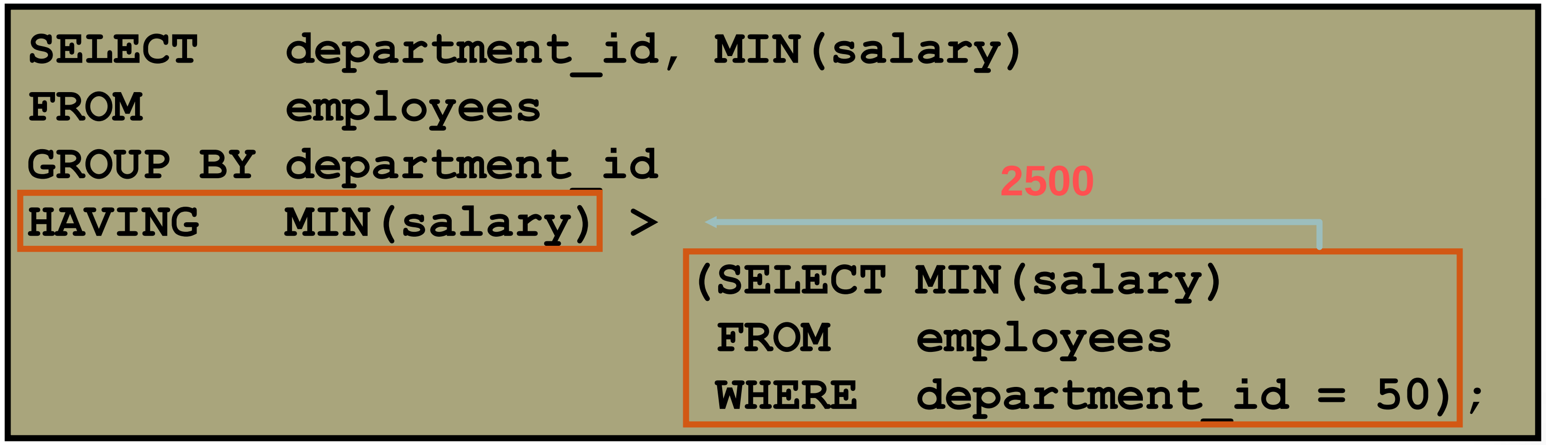
```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =
                (SELECT MIN(salary)
                 FROM   employees);
```

2500

LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

The HAVING Clause with Subqueries

- The Oracle server executes subqueries first.
- The Oracle server returns results into the HAVING clause of the main query.



```
SELECT    department_id, MIN(salary)
FROM      employees
GROUP BY department_id
HAVING    MIN(salary) >
                        (SELECT MIN(salary)
                         FROM   employees
                         WHERE  department_id = 50);
```

What Is Wrong with This Statement?

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =
                (SELECT   MIN(salary)
                 FROM     employees
                 GROUP BY department_id);
```

```
ERROR at line 4:
ORA-01427: single-row subquery returns more than
one row
```

Single-row operator with multiple-row subquery

Will This Statement Return Rows?

```
SELECT last_name, job_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =
                (SELECT job_id
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  last_name = 'Haas');
```

```
no rows selected
```

Subquery returns no values.

Multiple-Row Subqueries

- Return more than one row
- Use multiple-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
`IN`	**Equal to any member in the list**
`ANY`	**Compare value to each value returned by the subquery**
`ALL`	**Compare value to every value returned by the subquery**

Using the ANY Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees        9000, 6000, 4200
WHERE  salary < ANY
                    (SELECT salary
                     FROM   employees
                     WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
124	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800
141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

...

10 rows selected.

Using the ALL Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees       9000, 6000, 4200
WHERE  salary < ALL
                    (SELECT salary
                     FROM   employees
                     WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

Null Values in a Subquery

```
SELECT emp.last_name
FROM   employees emp
WHERE  emp.employee_id NOT IN
                           (SELECT mgr.manager_id
                            FROM   employees mgr);

no rows selected
```

Summary

- In this lesson, you should have learned how to:
  - Identify when a subquery can help solve a question
  - Write subqueries when a query is based on unknown values

```
SELECT   select_list
FROM     table
WHERE    expr operator
                  (SELECT select_list
                   FROM    table);
```

Practice 6: Overview

- This practice covers the following topics:
  - Creating subqueries to query values based on unknown criteria
  - Using subqueries to find out which values exist in one set of data and not in another