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SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

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The SQL SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The **SELECT DISTINCT** statement is used to return only distinct (different) values.

Inside a table, a column often contains many duplicate values; and sometimes you only want to list the different (distinct) values.

SELECT DISTINCT Syntax

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```
FROM table_name;
```

Demo Database

Below is a selection from the "Customers" table in the Northwind sample database:

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCode	Country
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209	Germany
2	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la Constitución 2222	México D.F.	05021	Mexico
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023	Mexico
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP	UK
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22	Sweden

SELECT Example Without DISTINCT

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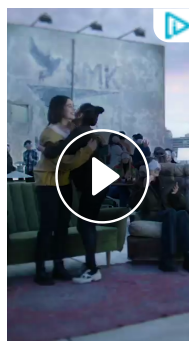
Example

```
SELECT Country FROM Customers;
```

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Now, let us use the **SELECT DISTINCT** statement and see the result.

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SELECT DISTINCT Examples

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Example

```
SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers;
```

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The following SQL statement lists the number of different (distinct) customer countries:

Example

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT Country) FROM Customers;
```

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Note: The example above will not work in Firefox! Because COUNT(DISTINCT *column_name*) is not supported in Microsoft Access databases. Firefox is using Microsoft Access in our examples.

Here is the workaround for MS Access:

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```
SELECT Count(*) AS DistinctCountries  
FROM (SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM Customers);
```

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Exercise:

Select all the different values from the **Country** column in the **Customers** table.

```
Country FROM Customers;
```

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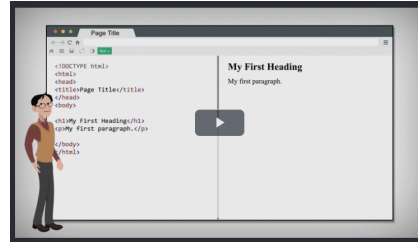


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