

# Learning

## SQL

### Windowing Functions



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# 1. WHAT IS A WINDOW FUNCTION IN SQL?

A window function performs a calculation across a set of table rows related to the current row. It is used mainly for analytical purposes and operates within a specified window of rows.





## 2. HOW DO YOU DEFINE A WINDOW IN SQL?

A window is defined using the OVER clause in SQL, which specifies the partitioning and ordering of rows.

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### 3. WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF WINDOW FUNCTIONS SUPPORTED IN SQL SERVER?

Aggregate functions, ranking functions, statistical functions, and offset functions.





## 4. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WINDOW FUNCTION AND AN AGGREGATE FUNCTION?

An aggregate function groups rows and returns a single result for each group, while a window function returns a result for each row within the specified window.





## 5. HOW DO YOU USE THE ROW\_NUMBER() FUNCTION?

`ROW_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)` assigns a unique sequential integer to rows within the partition of a result set.





## 6. EXPLAIN THE RANK() FUNCTION.

RANK() OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)  
assigns a rank to each row within the partition of a result set, with gaps in the rank values if there are ties.





## 7. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RANK() AND DENSE\_RANK()?

DENSE\_RANK() is similar to RANK() but does not leave gaps in the ranking values.



## 8. DESCRIBE THE NTILE() FUNCTION.

`NTILE(n) OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)`  
distributes rows into a specified number of roughly equal groups.



## 9. WHAT DOES THE LAG() FUNCTION DO?

LAG(column, offset, default) OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column) provides access to a row at a specified physical offset before the current row within the partition.



# 10. HOW DOES THE LEAD() FUNCTION DIFFER FROM LAG()?

`LEAD(column, offset, default)`  
`OVER (PARTITION BY column`  
`ORDER BY column)` provides  
access to a row at a specified  
physical offset after the current  
row within the partition.





## 11. EXPLAIN THE USE OF FIRST\_VALUE() FUNCTION.

`FIRST_VALUE(column) OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)` returns the first value in an ordered set of values.





## 12. WHAT IS THE LAST\_VALUE() FUNCTION USED FOR?

`LAST_VALUE(column) OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)` returns the last value in an ordered set of values.





# 13. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A MOVING AVERAGE USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use `AVG(column) OVER  
(PARTITION BY column ORDER BY  
column ROWS BETWEEN n  
PRECEDING AND CURRENT ROW)` to  
calculate a moving average.



## 14. DESCRIBE THE PERCENT\_RANK() FUNCTION.

`PERCENT_RANK() OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)` calculates the relative rank of a row within the partition as a percentage.



## 15. WHAT IS THE CUME\_DIST() FUNCTION?

`CUME_DIST() OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)`  
calculates the cumulative distribution of a value within the partition.





# 16. EXPLAIN PERCENTILE\_CONT() FUNCTION.

PERCENTILE\_CONT( $n$ ) WITHIN GROUP (ORDER BY column) OVER (PARTITION BY column) computes a percentile based on continuous distribution.



# 17. HOW DOES PERCENTILE\_DISC() DIFFER FROM PERCENTILE\_CONT()?

PERCENTILE\_DISC( $n$ ) WITHIN GROUP (ORDER BY column) OVER (PARTITION BY column) computes a percentile based on discrete distribution.



# 18. WHAT IS A FRAME IN THE CONTEXT OF WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

A frame defines a subset of rows within the partition to apply the window function, specified using ROWS or RANGE clauses.



## 19. HOW DO YOU USE THE ROWS BETWEEN CLAUSE?

ROWS BETWEEN  $n$  PRECEDING AND  $m$  FOLLOWING specifies a frame of rows relative to the current row for the window function.





# 20. WHAT IS THE RANGE CLAUSE USED FOR IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

The RANGE clause defines a frame of rows based on the value range of the rows, not their physical positions.





# 21. HOW CAN YOU EMULATE IGNORE NULLS IN SQL SERVER?

Use subqueries or conditional aggregation to ignore nulls in window functions since SQL Server does not directly support IGNORE NULLS.





## 22. EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF WINDOWING IN SQL.

Windowing allows calculations across a set of table rows related to the current row using window functions.





## 23. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Window functions simplify complex queries, improve readability, and often provide better performance for analytical queries.





## 24. CAN WINDOW FUNCTIONS BE USED IN THE WHERE CLAUSE?

No, window functions cannot be used in the WHERE clause directly. They are used in the SELECT or ORDER BY clauses.





## 25. HOW DO WINDOW FUNCTIONS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE?

Window functions can perform calculations without requiring additional joins or subqueries, reducing the complexity and execution time.





# 26. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARTITION BY AND ORDER BY IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

PARTITION BY divides the result set into partitions, and ORDER BY specifies the order of rows within each partition.





# 27. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE RUNNING TOTALS USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use `SUM(column) OVER  
(PARTITION BY column ORDER BY  
column ROWS UNBOUNDED  
PRECEDING)` for running totals.



## 28. DESCRIBE THE USE OF COUNT() AS A WINDOW FUNCTION.

`COUNT(column) OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column)`  
counts the number of rows within the window frame.





# 29. HOW CAN YOU USE WINDOW FUNCTIONS TO IDENTIFY GAPS AND ISLANDS IN DATA?

Use LAG() and LEAD() functions to compare current and previous/next row values to identify gaps and islands.





# 30. WHAT ARE HYPOTHETICAL SET FUNCTIONS?

Hypothetical set functions, like PERCENTILE\_CONT and PERCENTILE\_DISC, compute percentiles and other statistical measures based on hypothetical distributions.



# 31. EXPLAIN THE STRING\_AGG() FUNCTION.

STRING\_AGG(column, delimiter)  
WITHIN GROUP (ORDER BY column) OVER (PARTITION BY column) concatenates values into a single string within each partition.





## 32. HOW DOES GROUP BY DIFFER FROM PARTITION BY IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

GROUP BY aggregates rows into groups and reduces the result set, while PARTITION BY defines partitions for window functions without reducing the result set.





# 33. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ROWS UNBOUNDED PRECEDING?

ROWS UNBOUNDED PRECEDING specifies the frame from the first row in the partition to the current row.





## 34. HOW DO YOU REMOVE DUPLICATES USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use ROW\_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column) to assign unique numbers and then filter by the row number to remove duplicates.





## 35. CAN WINDOW FUNCTIONS BE NESTED?

No, window functions cannot be nested within each other in the same query.





# 36. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A MOVING SUM USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use `SUM(column) OVER  
(PARTITION BY column ORDER BY  
column ROWS BETWEEN n  
PRECEDING AND CURRENT ROW)` to  
calculate a moving sum.





# 37. EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF FRAMING IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS.

Framing specifies the subset of rows within a partition for the window function, defined by ROWS or RANGE clauses.





## 38. HOW DO YOU USE THE OVER CLAUSE WITH PARTITION BY AND ORDER BY?

OVER (PARTITION BY column ORDER BY column) defines the window frame by partitioning and ordering the rows.





## 39. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF NTILE() IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

NTILE() divides the result set into a specified number of approximately equal groups.



# 40. HOW DO WINDOW FUNCTIONS HANDLE TIES IN RANKING?

Functions like `RANK()` leave gaps for ties, while `DENSE_RANK()` does not leave gaps.



# 41. DESCRIBE HOW TO CALCULATE THE MEDIAN USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS.

Use PERCENTILE\_CONT(0.5)  
WITHIN GROUP (ORDER BY  
column) OVER (PARTITION BY  
column) to calculate the median.





## 42. WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF WINDOW FUNCTIONS IN SQL SERVER?

Limitations include the inability to use window functions in WHERE, HAVING, and GROUP BY clauses, and lack of support for some standard features like IGNORE NULLS.





## 43. HOW DO YOU HANDLE NULL VALUES IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use conditional expressions or subqueries to handle NULL values, as window functions do not directly support IGNORE NULLS.





## 44. WHAT IS THE WINDOW CLAUSE USED FOR?

The WINDOW clause allows you to reuse window definitions within the same query, improving readability and maintainability.





# 45. HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT PAGING USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use ROW\_NUMBER() OVER (ORDER BY column) to assign row numbers and then filter by the desired page range.





# 46. WHAT ARE STATISTICAL WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Statistical window functions include PERCENTILE\_CONT, PERCENTILE\_DISC, PERCENT\_RANK, and CUME\_DIST, used for statistical calculations.





# 47. EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF ROW PATTERN RECOGNITION IN SQL.

Row pattern recognition allows the detection of patterns within sequences of rows, a feature not yet fully supported in SQL Server.





# 48. HOW CAN WINDOW FUNCTIONS BE OPTIMIZED IN SQL SERVER?

Optimization techniques include indexing, parallelism improvements, and batch-mode processing for better performance.



# 49. DESCRIBE THE USE OF FIRST\_VALUE AND LAST\_VALUE IN WINDOW FUNCTIONS.

FIRST\_VALUE and LAST\_VALUE return the first and last values in the window frame, respectively, based on the specified ordering.





# 50. HOW DO YOU PERFORM CONDITIONAL AGGREGATION USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Use CASE expressions within aggregate functions to perform conditional aggregation, e.g.,  
`SUM(CASE WHEN condition THEN column ELSE 0 END) OVER (PARTITION BY column).`



## 51. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A CUMULATIVE SUM USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, SUM(val)
OVER (ORDER BY orderid) AS
cumulative_sum
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the cumulative sum of the val column ordered by orderid.





## 52. EXPLAIN THE ROW\_NUMBER() FUNCTION WITH AN EXAMPLE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, ROW_NUMBER()
OVER (ORDER BY val DESC) AS
row_num
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query assigns a unique sequential integer to rows ordered by val in descending order.

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## 53. HOW DO YOU USE LAG() TO FIND THE PREVIOUS ROW'S VALUE?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, LAG(val, 1) OVER  
(ORDER BY orderid) AS prev_val  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query returns the previous row's val value for each row.



## 54. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF USING LEAD() TO FIND THE NEXT ROW'S VALUE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, LEAD(val, 1) OVER  
(ORDER BY orderid) AS next_val  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query returns the next row's val value for each row.



## 55. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A MOVING AVERAGE USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
AVG(val) OVER (ORDER BY orderid  
ROWS BETWEEN 2 PRECEDING AND  
CURRENT ROW) AS moving_avg  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates a moving average over the current and two preceding rows.

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## 56. EXPLAIN HOW TO RANK ROWS USING RANK().

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
RANK() OVER (ORDER BY val DESC)  
AS rnk  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query ranks rows based on val in descending order.



## 57. HOW DO YOU USE DENSE\_RANK() TO RANK ROWS WITHOUT GAPS?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, DENSE_RANK()  
OVER (ORDER BY val DESC) AS  
dense_rnk  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query ranks rows based on val in descending order without gaps in the rank values.



## 58. DESCRIBE THE NTILE() FUNCTION WITH AN EXAMPLE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, NTILE(4) OVER  
(ORDER BY val) AS quartile  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query divides the result set into four approximately equal groups.





## 59. HOW DO YOU USE FIRST\_VALUE() TO GET THE FIRST VALUE IN A WINDOW?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, FIRST_VALUE(val)
OVER (ORDER BY orderid) AS first_val
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query returns the first val value based on orderid ordering.



## 60. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF USING LAST\_VALUE() TO GET THE LAST VALUE IN A WINDOW.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, LAST_VALUE(val)
OVER (ORDER BY orderid ROWS
BETWEEN UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND
UNBOUNDED FOLLOWING) AS last_val
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query returns the last val value based on orderid ordering.





# 61. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND PREVIOUS ROW VALUES USING LAG()?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
val - LAG(val, 1) OVER (ORDER BY  
orderid) AS diff  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the difference between the current and previous row's val.

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## 62. EXPLAIN THE USE OF PERCENT\_RANK() WITH AN EXAMPLE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
PERCENT_RANK() OVER (ORDER BY  
val) AS percent_rank  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the relative rank of each row as a percentage of the total rows.





## 63. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION USING CUME\_DIST()?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
CUME_DIST() OVER (ORDER BY val) AS  
cumulative_dist  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the cumulative distribution of each row's val.

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## 64. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF USING PERCENTILE\_CONT() TO CALCULATE A PERCENTILE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
PERCENTILE_CONT(0.5) WITHIN GROUP  
(ORDER BY val) OVER () AS median  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the median val.



## 65. EXPLAIN HOW TO USE PERCENTILE\_DISC() TO CALCULATE A PERCENTILE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val,  
PERCENTILE_DISC(0.5) WITHIN  
GROUP (ORDER BY val) OVER () AS  
median  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the median val based on discrete distribution.



## 66. HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A RUNNING TOTAL USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, SUM(val) OVER  
(ORDER BY orderid ROWS BETWEEN  
UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND CURRENT  
ROW) AS running_total  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates a running total of val.

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## 67. DESCRIBE THE USE OF THE RANGE CLAUSE WITH AN EXAMPLE.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, SUM(val) OVER
(ORDER BY orderid RANGE BETWEEN
INTERVAL '1' DAY PRECEDING AND
CURRENT ROW) AS range_sum
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the sum of val for rows within the specified range of days.



## 68. HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT A SLIDING WINDOW CALCULATION?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, AVG(val) OVER
(ORDER BY orderid ROWS BETWEEN 2
PRECEDING AND 2 FOLLOWING) AS
sliding_avg
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates a sliding average over a window of five rows centered on the current row.



## 69. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF USING LAG() AND LEAD() TOGETHER.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, LAG(val, 1) OVER  
(ORDER BY orderid) AS prev_val,  
LEAD(val, 1) OVER (ORDER BY orderid)  
AS next_val FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query returns the previous and next val values for each row.





## 70. EXPLAIN HOW TO PARTITION DATA USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, customerid, val,  
SUM(val) OVER (PARTITION BY  
customerid ORDER BY orderid) AS  
customer_total  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the running total of val for each customerid.

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# 71. HOW DO YOU USE WINDOW FUNCTIONS TO CALCULATE THE PERCENTAGE OF A TOTAL?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, val * 100.0 /  
SUM(val) OVER () AS  
percent_of_total  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the percentage of each val of the total sum of val.

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## 72. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF USING NTILE() TO CREATE DECILES.

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, NTILE(10) OVER  
(ORDER BY val) AS decile  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query divides the result set into ten approximately equal groups (deciles).



## 73. HOW DO YOU USE WINDOW FUNCTIONS TO FIND THE TOP N ROWS PER GROUP?

Example:

```
WITH RankedOrders
AS (SELECT orderid, customerid, val,
ROW_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY
customerid ORDER BY val DESC) AS rank
FROM Sales.OrderValues)
SELECT * FROM RankedOrders
WHERE rank <= 3;
```

This query returns the top 3 orders by value for each customer.





## 74. EXPLAIN HOW TO USE WINDOW FUNCTIONS FOR DATA DE-DUPLICATION.

Example:

```
WITH CTE AS
(SELECT orderid, val,
ROW_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY
val ORDER BY orderid) AS rn
FROM Sales.OrderValues)
DELETE FROM CTE WHERE rn > 1;
```

This query deletes duplicate rows based on the val column.



## 75. HOW DO YOU PERFORM CUMULATIVE AGGREGATION USING WINDOW FUNCTIONS?

Example:

```
SELECT orderid, val, SUM(val) OVER  
(ORDER BY orderid ROWS BETWEEN  
UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND CURRENT  
ROW) AS cumulative_sum  
FROM Sales.OrderValues;
```

This query calculates the cumulative sum of val for all preceding rows including the current row.

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