🔍 **What this query is doing?**
It's finding the **third highest salary** from the `employees` table.

✅ **Query Recap**

```
SELECT salary
FROM employees e1
WHERE 2 = (
  SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT salary)
  FROM employees e2
  WHERE e2.salary > e1.salary
);
```

📋 **Sample Data (employees table)**

emp_id	name	salary
1	A	5000
2	B	7000
3	C	6000
4	D	8000
5	E	7000

🔄 **Dry Run Logic**

For each employee `e1`, the subquery:

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT salary)
FROM employees e2
WHERE e2.salary > e1.salary;
```

counts how many **distinct salaries are greater than** `e1.salary`.

We are looking for those employees for which this count is **exactly 2**, i.e., **2 salaries are greater than theirs**, so their salary is the **3rd highest**.

🔢 **Step-by-step Analysis:**

Unique salaries in descending order:

- 8000 → 1st highest
- 7000 → 2nd highest
- 6000 → ✅ **3rd highest**
- 5000 → 4th highest

Now, go row by row:

e1.salary	COUNT(DISTINCT salary > e1.salary)	Match? (count = 2)
8000	0	❌ No
7000	1 (only 8000)	❌ No
6000	2 (7000, 8000)	✅ Yes
5000	3 (6000, 7000, 8000)	❌ No

✅ **Final Output**

salary
6000

This is the **third highest salary** from the table.