| Parameters | Nested Query | Correlated Query | Join Operation |
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| Definition | In Nested query, a query is written inside another query and the result of inner query is used in execution of outer query. | In Correlated query, a query is nested inside another query and inner query uses values from outer query. | Join operation is used to combine data or rows from two or more tables based on a common field between them. INNER JOIN, LEFT JOIN, RIGHT JOIN, FULL JOIN are different types of Joins. |
| Approach | Bottom-up approach i.e., Inner query runs first, and only once. Outer query is executed with result from Inner query. | Top to Down Approach i.e., Outer query executes first and for every Outer query row Inner query is executed. | It is basically cross product satisfying a condition. |
| Dependency | Inner query execution is not dependent on Outer query. | Inner query is dependent on Outer query. | There is no Inner Query or Outer Query. Hence, no dependency is there. |
| Performance | Performs better than Correlated Query but is slower than Join Operation. | Performs slower than both Nested Query and Join operations as for every outer query inner query is executed. | By using joins we maximize the calculation burden on the database but joins are better optimized by the server so the retrieval time of the query using joins will almost always be faster than that of a subquery. |