



# 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.

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

## SELECT DISTINCT Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2, ...  
FROM table_name;
```

## Demo Database

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

CustomerID	CustomerName	ContactName	Address	City	PostalCod
1	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Obere Str. 57	Berlin	12209
2	Ana Trujillo	Ana Trujillo	Avda. de la	México	05021

	Emparedados y helados		Constitución 2222	D.F.	
3	Antonio Moreno Taquería	Antonio Moreno	Mataderos 2312	México D.F.	05023
4	Around the Horn	Thomas Hardy	120 Hanover Sq.	London	WA1 1DP
5	Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Berguvsvägen 8	Luleå	S-958 22



## SELECT Example

The following SQL statement selects all (and duplicate) values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

### Example

```
SELECT Country FROM Customers;
```

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Now, let us use the DISTINCT keyword with the above SELECT statement and see the result.



## SELECT DISTINCT Examples

The following SQL statement selects only the DISTINCT values from the "Country" column in the "Customers" table:

### 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 and Microsoft Edge!**

Because COUNT(DISTINCT *column\_name*) is not supported in Microsoft Access databases. Firefox and Microsoft Edge are using Microsoft Access in our examples.

Here is the workaround for MS Access:

## Example

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

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