

SQL - DISTINCT KEYWORD

The SQL **DISTINCT** keyword is used in conjunction with **SELECT** statement to eliminate all the duplicate records and fetching only unique records.

There may be a situation when you have multiple duplicate records in a table. While fetching such records, it makes more sense to fetch only unique records instead of fetching duplicate records.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of **DISTINCT** keyword to eliminate duplicate records is as follows:

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2, .....columnN
FROM table_name
WHERE [condition]
```

Example:

Consider **CUSTOMERS** table is having following records:

| ID | NAME | AGE | ADDRESS | SALARY |
|----|----------|-----|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Ramesh | 32 | Ahmedabad | 2000.00 |
| 2 | Khilan | 25 | Delhi | 1500.00 |
| 3 | kaushik | 23 | Kota | 2000.00 |
| 4 | Chaitali | 25 | Mumbai | 6500.00 |
| 5 | Hardik | 27 | Bhopal | 8500.00 |
| 6 | Komal | 22 | MP | 4500.00 |
| 7 | Muffy | 24 | Indore | 10000.00 |

First let us see how the following **SELECT** query returns duplicate salary records:

```
SQL> SELECT SALARY FROM CUSTOMERS
      ORDER BY SALARY;
```

This would produce following result where salary 2000 is coming twice which is a duplicate record from the original table.

| SALARY |
|----------|
| 1500.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 4500.00 |
| 6500.00 |
| 8500.00 |
| 10000.00 |

Now let us use **DISTINCT** keyword with the above **SELECT** query and see the result:

```
SQL> SELECT DISTINCT SALARY FROM CUSTOMERS
      ORDER BY SALARY;
```

This would produce following result where we do not have any duplicate entry:

| SALARY |
|----------|
| 1500.00 |
| 2000.00 |
| 4500.00 |
| 6500.00 |
| 8500.00 |
| 10000.00 |