

SQL - LEFT JOINS

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The SQL **LEFT JOIN** returns all rows from the left table, even if there are no matches in the right table. This means that if the ON clause matches 0 (zero) records in right table, the join will still return a row in the result, but with NULL in each column from right table.

This means that a left join returns all the values from the left table, plus matched values from the right table or NULL in case of no matching join predicate.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of **LEFT JOIN** is as follows:

```
SELECT table1.column1, table2.column2...
FROM table1
LEFT JOIN table2
ON table1.common_field = table2.common_field;
```

Here given condition could be any given expression based on your requirement.

Example:

Consider following two tables, (a) CUSTOMERS table is as follows:

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

(b) Another table is ORDERS as follows:

OID	DATE	CUSTOMER_ID	AMOUNT
102	2009-10-08 00:00:00	3	3000
100	2009-10-08 00:00:00	3	1500
101	2009-11-20 00:00:00	2	1560
103	2008-05-20 00:00:00	4	2060

Now let us join these two tables using LEFT JOIN as follows:

```
SQL> SELECT ID, NAME, AMOUNT, DATE
FROM CUSTOMERS
LEFT JOIN ORDERS
ON CUSTOMERS.ID = ORDERS.CUSTOMER_ID;
```

This would produce following result:

ID	NAME	AMOUNT	DATE
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1	Ramesh	NULL	NULL	
2	Khilan	1560	2009-11-20 00:00:00	
3	kaushik	3000	2009-10-08 00:00:00	
3	kaushik	1500	2009-10-08 00:00:00	
4	Chaitali	2060	2008-05-20 00:00:00	
5	Hardik	NULL	NULL	
6	Komal	NULL	NULL	
7	Muffy	NULL	NULL	