

SQL - HANDLING DUPLICATES

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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.

The SQL **DISTINCT** keyword, which we already have discussed, is used in conjunction with **SELECT** statement to eliminate all the duplicate records and fetching only unique 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