**1. Standard Table**

* **Definition:** A permanent table in the target system (like Snowflake, SQL DB, Databricks Delta table) that holds **business-ready data**.
* **Purpose:** Long-term storage of curated, clean, and modeled data (fact tables, dimension tables, reporting tables).
* **Lifecycle:** Persistent – stays until explicitly dropped.
* **Use Case:** BI dashboards, analytics, long-term history.

**Example (Snowflake):**

CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE sales\_fact (

order\_id INT,

customer\_id INT,

product\_id INT,

order\_date DATE,

amount DECIMAL(10,2)

);

**2. Transit Table**

* **Definition:** A **temporary or staging table** used as an intermediate step in ETL/ELT pipelines.
* **Purpose:** Acts as a "transit zone" for raw or semi-processed data before it lands in standard tables.
* **Lifecycle:** Short-term – often dropped/overwritten after each pipeline run.
* **Use Case:**
  + Data ingestion staging (before cleansing/transformations).
  + Handling incremental loads (staging delta data before merge).
  + Debugging or QA checkpoints.

**Example (Snowflake staging):**

CREATE OR REPLACE TRANSIENT TABLE staging\_sales (

order\_id INT,

raw\_payload VARIANT,

ingest\_time TIMESTAMP DEFAULT CURRENT\_TIMESTAMP

);

*(Note: In Snowflake,* ***TRANSIENT tables*** *are a special kind of non-permanent table without fail-safe, but many teams also use the word “transit” informally to mean staging.)*