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Join (SQL)

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A **join** combines records from two or more tables in a relational database. In the Structured Query Language (SQL), there are several types of joins, including "inner" and "outer". They all work by linking records on a key field.

The simplest type of join doesn't even use the `JOIN` keyword. For example, given employee and department tables as follows:

```
name      dept_id
----      -------
Smith          34
Jones          33
Robinson       34
Jasper         34
Steinberg      33
Rafferty       31
```

```
job         ID
----        --
Sales       31
Engineering 33
Clerical    34
```

Use this SQL statement to join the tables:

```
SELECT name, job
FROM employee, department
WHERE employee.dept_id = department.ID
```

Your result set will be:

```
name        job
----        ---
Smith       Clerical
Jones       Engineering
Robinson    Clerical
Jasper      Clerical
Steinberg   Engineering
Rafferty    Sales
```

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