Using Subqueries to Solve Queries

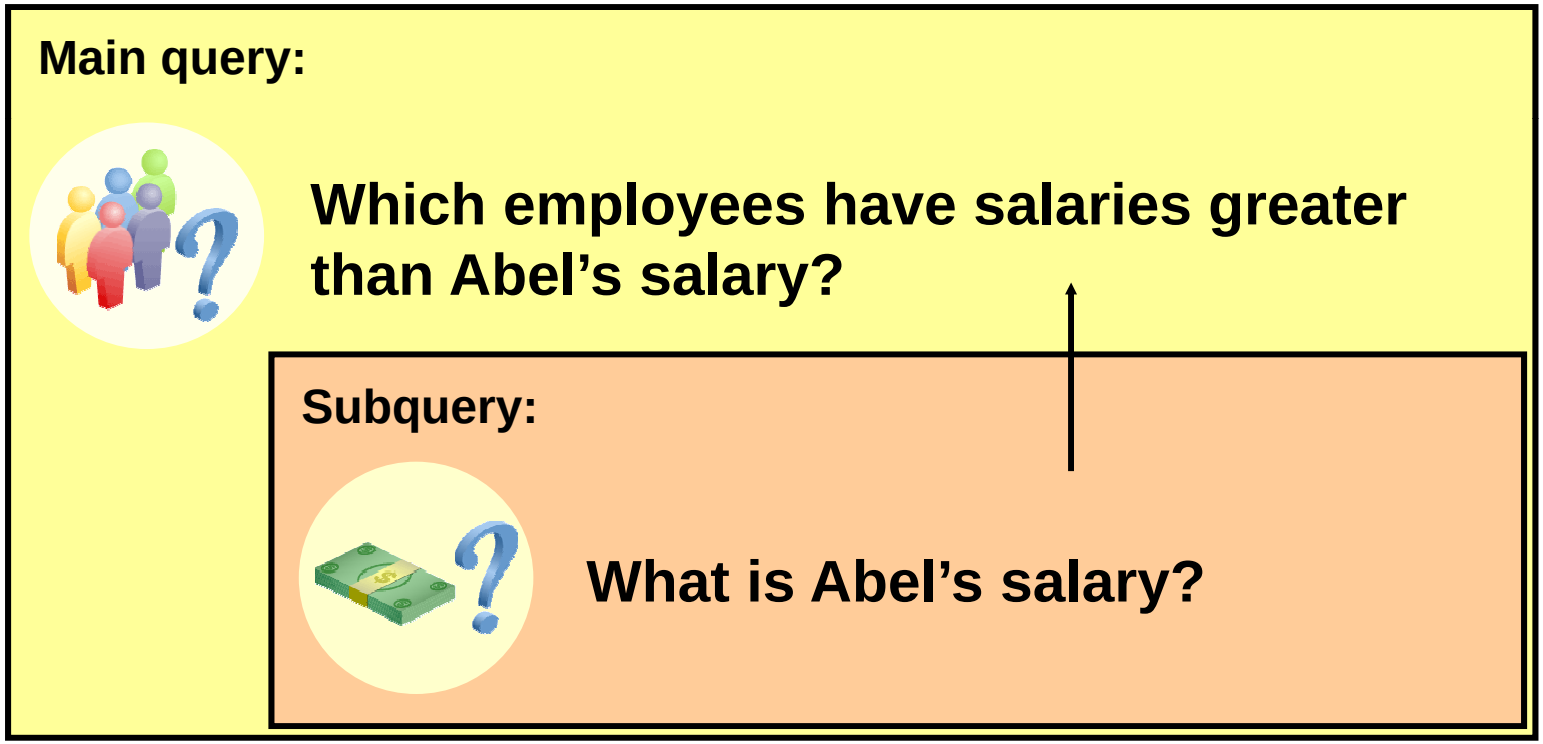
Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- **Define subqueries**
- **Describe the types of problems that subqueries can solve**
- **List the types of subqueries**
- **Write single-row and multiple-row subqueries**

Using a Subquery to Solve a Problem

Who has a salary greater than Abel's?



Subquery Syntax

```
SELECT   select_list
FROM     table
WHERE    expr operator
                    (SELECT       select_list
                    FROM          table);
```

- The subquery (inner query) executes once before the main query (outer query).
- The result of the subquery is used by the main query.

Using a Subquery

```
SELECT last_name, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary >
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  last_name = 'Abel');
```

11000

LAST_NAME	SALARY
King	24000
Kochhar	17000
De Haan	17000
Hartstein	13000
Higgins	12000

Guidelines for Using Subqueries

- Enclose subqueries in parentheses.
- Place subqueries on the right side of the comparison condition.
- The `ORDER BY` clause in the subquery is not needed unless you are performing Top-N analysis.
- Use single-row operators with single-row subqueries, and use multiple-row operators with multiple-row subqueries.

Types of Subqueries

- **Single-row subquery**

- **Multiple-row subquery**

Single-Row Subqueries

- Return only one row
- Use single-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
=	Equal to
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
<>	Not equal to

Executing Single-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =
                (SELECT job_id
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  employee_id = 141)
AND    salary >
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  employee_id = 143);
```

ST_CLERK

2600

LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
Davies	ST_CLERK	3100

Using Group Functions in a Subquery

```
SELECT last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =
                (SELECT MIN(salary)
                 FROM   employees);
```

2500

LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

The HAVING Clause with Subqueries

- The Oracle server executes subqueries first.
- The Oracle server returns results into the HAVING clause of the main query.

```
SELECT   department_id, MIN(salary)
FROM     employees
GROUP BY department_id
HAVING   MIN(salary) > (SELECT MIN(salary)
                        FROM   employees
                        WHERE  department_id = 50);
```

2500

What Is Wrong with This Statement?

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary =
                (SELECT   MIN(salary)
                 FROM     employees
                 GROUP BY department_id);
```

```
ERROR at line 4:
ORA-01427: single-row subquery returns more than
one row
```

Single-row operator with multiple-row subquery

Will This Statement Return Rows?

```
SELECT last_name, job_id
FROM   employees
WHERE  job_id =
                (SELECT job_id
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  last_name = 'Haas');
```

```
no rows selected
```

Subquery returns no values.

Multiple-Row Subqueries

- Return more than one row
- Use multiple-row comparison operators

Operator	Meaning
IN	Equal to any member in the list
ANY	Compare value to each value returned by the subquery
ALL	Compare value to every value returned by the subquery

Using the ANY Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary < ANY
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

9000, 6000, 4200

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
124	Mourgos	ST_MAN	5800
141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

...

10 rows selected.

Using the ALL Operator in Multiple-Row Subqueries

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, job_id, salary
FROM   employees
WHERE  salary < ALL
                (SELECT salary
                 FROM   employees
                 WHERE  job_id = 'IT_PROG')
AND    job_id <> 'IT_PROG';
```

9000, 6000, 4200

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	JOB_ID	SALARY
141	Rajs	ST_CLERK	3500
142	Davies	ST_CLERK	3100
143	Matos	ST_CLERK	2600
144	Vargas	ST_CLERK	2500

Null Values in a Subquery

```
SELECT emp.last_name
FROM   employees emp
WHERE  emp.employee_id NOT IN
                            (SELECT mgr.manager_id
                             FROM   employees mgr);

no rows selected
```

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- **Identify when a subquery can help solve a question**
- **Write subqueries when a query is based on unknown values**

```
SELECT   select_list
FROM     table
WHERE    expr operator
                    (SELECT select_list
                    FROM    table);
```