

- A “***natural join***” is a join where the joining attributes are defined as having equal names, so they need not be stated explicitly.
- A “***inner join***” is one where the joining attributes do not have to have equal names, so they should be specified in the “***on***”

Another difference is the number of returned columns. A “***natural join***” does not duplicate columns, but “***inner join***” does duplicate.

**Example:**

Consider Table A and TableB:

**Table A**

Column1	Column2
1	2

**Table B**

Column1	Column3
1	3

**INNER JOIN:**

**SELECT \* FROM TableA INNER JOIN TableB ON TableA.Column1 = TableB.Column1**

The result of the “***inner join***” has duplicated columns: TableA.Column1 and TableB.Column1

TableA.Column1	TableA.Column2	TableB.Column1	TableB.Column3
1	2	1	3

**NATURAL JOIN:**

**SELECT \* FROM TableA NATURAL JOIN TableB**

The result of the “***natural join***” has not duplicated columns

Column1	Column2	Column3
1	2	3