

- 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 to 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