

Writing Queries: Rules of Thumb

- Start with the FROM clause. Which table(s) do you need?
- If you need more than one table, determine the necessary join conditions.
 - for N tables, you typically need N – 1 join conditions
 - is an outer join needed? – i.e., do you want unmatched tuples?
- Determine if a GROUP BY clause is needed.
 - are you performing computations involving subgroups?
- Determine any other conditions that are needed.
 - if they rely on aggregate functions, put in a HAVING clause
 - otherwise, add to the WHERE clause
 - is a subquery needed?
- Fill in the rest of the query: SELECT, ORDER BY?
 - is DISTINCT needed?