

Q. What is the difference between 'Where' and 'Having 'clause?

The main difference between WHERE and HAVING clause comes when used together with GROUP BY clause, in that case WHERE is used to filter rows before grouping and HAVING is used to exclude records after grouping. This is the most important difference and if you remember this, it will help you write better SQL queries. This is also one of the important SQL concepts to understand, not just from an interview perspective but also from a day-to-day use perspective. I am sure you have used WHERE clause because it's one of the most common clauses in SQL along with SELECT and used to specify filtering criterion or condition. You can even use WHERE clause without HAVING or GROUP BY, as you have seen it many times.

On the other hand, HAVING can only be used if grouping has been performed using GROUP BY clause in the SQL query. Another worth noting thing about WHERE and HAVING clause is that WHERE clause cannot contain aggregate function like COUNT(), SUM(), MAX(), MIN(), etc. but HAVING clause may contain aggregate functions.

Another worth noting the difference between WHERE and HAVING clause is that WHERE is used to impose filtering criterion on a SELECT, UPDATE, DELETE statement as well as single row function and used before group by clause but HAVING is always used after group by clause.