SQL-92 Standard Join Syntax

An inner join in SQL can be specified as follows, with the `WHERE` clause providing a condition that forces matching of rows between the tables.

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table, site_table
  WHERE pottery_table.site_id = site_table.site_id;
```

An alternative syntax is to specify the columns to match as part of the `FROM` clause. There are two variations:

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table INNER JOIN site_table
    ON pottery_table.site_id = site_table.site_id;
```

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table INNER JOIN site_table
    USING(site_id);
```

This alternative syntax (with the columns to match specified as part of the `FROM` clause) is the *only* standard way to specify an outer join.

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table RIGHT JOIN site_table
    ON pottery_table.site_id = site_table.site_id;
```

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table RIGHT JOIN site_table
    USING(site_id);
```

Different databases provide different ways of supporting outer joins using the `WHERE` clause. For example, Microsoft SQL Server allows the following syntax for the right join above (the important bit is the `=*` comparison operator).

```
SELECT *
  FROM pottery_table, site_table
  WHERE pottery_table.site_id =* site_table.site_id;
```