

- Be alert to the potential for ties — in #1, for example, there may be multiple borrowers with the same earliest checkout date and in #6 there may be or multiple book/branch combinations with the same highest number of copies. For these problems, reflect the possibility in the language — “find borrower(s)...” or “find the book/branch combination(s)...” In other cases you may be using the result of a subquery in a context where a single value is expected and need to take additional steps to deal with ties.
- Be precise with your language and stick to the terminology and concepts of the schema to avoid misstatements.
 - #1 is finding borrower(s) with the earliest checkout date (`MIN(Date_out)`). Some described this as borrower(s) with the longest checked-out books — checkout duration is about the difference between `Date_out` and either the current date (if the book is not yet due) or `Date_due` (for books already returned), which is not quite the same thing. Describing #1 as involving the books checked out longest ago is valid, but referring specifically to “checkout date” in this case helps avoid errors due to accidentally omitting “ago” in “longest ago”.
 - #6 involves the highest number of copies of any book at any particular branch — referring to “book title and branch ID of the book/branch combination(s) with the highest number of copies” reflects that, while “title and branch ID of the book(s) with the highest number of copies” could mean that the total number of copies for each book across all the branches is what is being considered.
- #7 involves the average number of loans amongst borrowers with at least one loan — borrowers without any loans are not represented in `BOOK_LOANS` and so are not factored into the average.
- The language “for each ...” in #11 and #19 implies that all borrowers/branches should be represented in the results, even if they don’t have any loans or books. Remember that (inner) `JOINS` lose rows that don’t have a match in the other table, so special handling is needed. Another mental checklist item!