

## Microsoft Access Queries – Topic 1 Linking to key fields

Take this simple query example which joins two tables, Books and Authors, to form a joint query.

Field:	BookID	BookTitle	AuthorID	AuthorFirstName	AuthorLastName	PublishedDate	LastEditedDate
Table:	Books	Books	Books	Authors	Authors	Books	Books
Sort:							
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:							
or:							

Supposed you wanted to update the field LastEditedDate in the resulting query. Have you ever seen the message at the bottom left “This Recordset is not updateable.” Why does Access throw this error message and how do you correct it?

The message is thrown because Access requires JOINed fields to have either a primary key or unique index in the right table in order to determine which table to actually do the update on. If it is confused it sets the query to not updateable.

BookID	BookTitle	AuthorID	AuthorFirstNa	AuthorLastNa	PublishedDat	LastEditedDat
1	Carrie	1	Stephen	King	4/5/1974	1/1/2002
2	The Stand	1	Stephen	King	1/1/1978	1/1/1994

This Recordset is not updateable.

In this case, the simple fix is to make the AuthorID in the Authors table a Primary Key.

Field:	BookID	BookTitle	AuthorID	AuthorFirstName	AuthorLastName	PublishedDate	LastEditedDate
Table:	Books	Books	Books	Authors	Authors	Books	Books
Sort:							
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:							
or:							