"Please reference a specific column" error

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Question:

I'm getting an error message like this: "Failed to compile DPQL. tickets.messages cannot be referenced directly. Please reference a specific column." What does this mean?

Answer:

This happens when your query is referring to a table, instead of a particular column of values within that table.

In this case, you are doing a "FROM tickets" query. You can see in the tickets table that you can reference tickets.messages; this is not a reference to a column in the tickets table (like, say, tickets.id), but a cross-reference to a table that stores columns of data about ticket messages. This is indicated in the documentation by the table name 'Ticket Message' being shown in italics.

messages	*Ticket Message*

For the report to work, you need to look at the Messages table and pick a column to reference: for example, tickets.messages.date_created