



# Relational Database Concepts

*Identification Dependency (Weak Entities and  
Identifying Relationships)*

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# Objectives

- Learn about identifying relationships.



# Identification Dependency (Weak Entities and Identifying Relationships)

- During the design of ERDs, it is possible to have a situation where some entity types do not have their own primary key. This occurs because some entities are closely associated with other entities.
- Entity types without their own primary key must borrow part (or all) of their primary key from other entity types.
- These type of entity types are called WEAK ENTITIES. The relationship(s) that provides components of the primary key is known as an identifying relationship. Thus, an identification dependency involves a weak entity and one or more identifying relationships.
- Because of the existence dependency and the primary key borrowing, the minimum and maximum cardinality of a weak entity is always 1.