Namespaces:

Namespaces uniquely identify the elements and attributes of a XML Document.

When we are creating a Schema File,for example lets say we are creating a application to handle the orders from amazon and ebay and ship them.These orders come in the form of XML.

When we define a schema we can define a target namespace for amazon and ebay.

It is always a good practice to use a domain name the url of our company to define a namespace as it is unique.

http://www.amazon.com/order
http://www.ebay.com/order

Once we define a target namespace in the respective schema files we can define a prefix using XMLNS which stands for xml namespace

xmlns:amz="http://www.amazon.com/order"
xmlns:ebay="http://www.ebay.com/order"

Once we define the target namespac in the XML Schema the XML that follows the schema we should define and use that namespace.We will define a prefix and qualify all the elements with that prefix.For example:

<order xmlns:amz="http://www.amazon.com/order">
<amz:lineitem>
</order>

<order xmlns:ebay="http://www.ebay.com/order">
<ebay:item>
</order>

Looking at the namespace our application can deter

mine whether the xml is from amazon or ebay.

Namespaces allow us to uniquely identify the elements in a xml .We can use an element with the same exact name from different namespaces.

If you are from a programming background then name spaces are like packages in java and namespaces in .Net.