**Inheritance Mismatch**

The major (object-oriented) feature that the object world supports and relational schemas do not is inheritance. As we all know, this is the bread and butter of any object-oriented language (Java in particular). Unfortunately, the relational schema does not know anything about inheritance.

Take an example of an employee and an executive: each executive is an employee. Representing this *is a* relationship in the database isn’t a clear-cut exercise, as it requires tweaking the table relationships. We know how important inheritance is to a java programmer. Without it , designing for real-world problems would be to messy. The database does not understand these types of associations. There is no straightforward solution; however, there are a few approaches to solving this problem. These approaches employ various class-to-table strategies, which we will see in later chapters. Note that has a relations are expressed in the database, though.