A foreign key is a column or a set of columns in a table that is used to establish a link between the data in two tables. It enforces referential integrity by ensuring that the values in the foreign key column(s) of one table correspond to the values in the primary key column(s) of another table. This relationship helps maintain consistency and prevents orphaned records.

In your provided example, you have two tables, "branch" and "employee," with a foreign key relationship between them:

1. Branch Table:

```
CREATE TABLE branch (
    branch_id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,
    br_name VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
    addr VARCHAR(200)
);
```

- The "branch" table is created with a primary key "branch_id," which is set to auto-increment. This table stores information about branches, such as branch names and addresses.

2. Employee Table with Foreign Key:

```
CREATE TABLE employee (
    emp_id INT PRIMARY KEY,
    ename VARCHAR(30),
    job_desc VARCHAR(20),
    salary INT,
    branch_id INT,
    CONSTRAINT FK_branchId FOREIGN KEY(branch_id) REFERENCES branch(branch_id)
);
```

- The "employee" table is created with a primary key "emp_id" and a foreign key "branch_id" that references the "branch" table's "branch_id" column. This establishes a foreign key relationship, which means that the "branch_id" values in the "employee" table must match the "branch_id" values in the "branch" table. It ensures that employees are associated with valid branches.

3. Dropping the Foreign Key:

```
ALTER TABLE employee
DROP FOREIGN KEY FK_branchId;
```

- The `ALTER TABLE` statement is used to modify the "employee" table. It drops the foreign key constraint named "FK_branchId." This means that the relationship between the "employee" and "branch" tables is removed, and the "branch_id" column in the "employee" table is no longer constrained by the foreign key relationship to the "branch" table.

Foreign keys are essential for maintaining data integrity and ensuring that relationships between tables are properly enforced. They help prevent inconsistent or invalid data from being inserted into the database by requiring that references to other tables are valid.