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# Relational Databases Unit

## Lesson 5 - Database Design Guidelines

# Objectives

- Outline the basic guidelines for designing relational databases

# Table Design

- Create a unique, descriptive name that is meaningful to the entire organization
- Create a name that accurately and clearly identifies the subject of the table
- Use the minimum number of words necessary
- Do not use acronyms or abbreviations

# Elements of an Ideal Table

- Represents a single subject
- Has a primary key
- Does not contain multipart fields
- Does not contain multivalued fields
- Does not contain calculated fields
- Does not contain unnecessary duplicate fields
- Contains minimum amount of redundant data

# Element of an Ideal Field

- Represents a characteristic of the subject of the table
- Contains only a single value
- Is atomic — cannot be deconstructed into smaller components
- Does not contain calculated or concatenated value
- Is unique across entire database structure