

## **Enhanced Entity Relationship Diagram**

Enhanced entity-relationship (**EER**) diagrams are basically a more expansive version of **ER** diagrams. **EER** models are helpful tools for designing databases with high-level models. With their enhanced features, you can plan databases more thoroughly by delving into the properties and constraints with greater precision.

An **EER** diagram provides you with all the elements of an **ER** diagram while adding:

1. Attribute or relationship inheritances
2. Category or union types
3. Specialization and generalization
4. Subclasses and superclasses

Overall, an **EER** diagram builds off of an **ER** diagram by including elements that allow for aggregation, generalization, and specialization.

Generalization and specialization act as opposites of one another. Generalization combines lower-level entities into one of a higher level. Meanwhile, specialization divides high-level entities into lower levels. With aggregation, two entities are treated as a single one.

By using the additional components, you can quickly sort and group the relationships within the system for efficient placement.

### **When to use ER diagrams vs. EER diagrams?**

Overall, both diagrams provide the ability to design your database with precision.

An **ER** diagram gives you the visual outlook of your database. It details the relationships and attributes of its entities, paving the way for smooth database development in the steps ahead.

**EER** diagrams, on the other hand, are perfect for taking a more detailed look at your information. When your database contains a larger amount of data, it's best to turn to an enhanced version to more deeply understand your model.

So, when should you use which? Honestly, both are useful, and it mostly depends on the size and detail of your data. The more complicated the data, the more likely you'll need to use an **EER** diagram to make sure you're properly organizing every relationship.

Both diagrams make designing your database easier than ever. All you need is a great diagramming tool that provides ready-made templates, shapes, and notations to create your **ER** and **EER** diagrams in a flash.