**What is a Complex Element?**

A complex element is an XML element that contains other elements and/or attributes.

There are four kinds of complex elements:

•**empty elements**

**•elements that contain only other elements**

**•elements that contain only text**

**•elements that contain both other elements and text**

Note: Each of these elements may contain attributes as well!

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Examples of Complex Elements

**A complex XML element, "product", which is empty:**

<product pid="1345"/>

**A complex XML element, "employee", which contains only other elements:**

<employee>

<firstname>John</firstname>

<lastname>Smith</lastname>

</employee>

**A complex XML element, "food", which contains only text:**

<food type="dessert">Ice cream</food>

**A complex XML element, "description", which contains both elements and text:**

<description>

It happened on <date lang="norwegian">03.03.99</date> ....

</description>