1. select the business process to model
2. declare the grain of the business process
3. choose dimensions that apply to each fact table row
4. identify the numeric facts that will populate each fact table row

* A business process is a natural business activity, supported by a data-collection system
* Declaring the grain is describe exactly what an individual fact table row specifies
* The business process determines the dimensions
* If the grain is clearly defined, the dimensions are normally easy to determine
* Dimensions should supply a rich set of descriptive data for the business process being modeled
* All dimension tables will have a surrogate key
* If the dimension table also exists in the operational database and has a primary key, the primary key value is stored, but it is not used as the surrogate key in the date warehouse
* Date dimension is included in virtually every data mart as this is necessary because SQL date function does not support many date attributes, such as fiscal periods and holidays
* Rich set of attributes makes it easy to drill down through the data
* Dimension table space requirements are small in comparison to the space required by the fact table
* It is acceptable to represent multiple hierarchies (zip, city, state and also districts, regions) in a dimension table
* The only item that needs to be stored in the transaction dimension is the transaction number
* The transaction dimension is referred to as a degenerate dimension
* Unlike the dimension tables, the fact table will normally have a composite key that includes the primary keys of the dimension tables
* A semi-additive fact can be added across some, but not all, dimensions
* Some facts cannot be meaningfully added across any dimension known as non-additive facts
* Calculated facts are generally not stored in operational databases
* We should avoid too many dimensions and dimension normalization
* Dimensional tables should use surrogate keys.