

Key Name	Definition	Writing Term	Definition
<b>Simple</b>	A key made from only one attribute	Uncountable Noun	A noun that can only be used in a singular form
<b>Concatenated</b>	A key made from more than one attribute joined together as a single key, such as part or whole name with a system generated number appended as often used for e-mail addresses.	Countable Noun	A noun which has a singular and plural form
<b>Compound</b>	A key made from at least two attributes or simple keys, only simple keys exist in a compound key.	Compound Noun	Two or more words that create a single noun together
<b>Composite</b>	A key containing at least one compound key with at least one other attribute or simple key (this is an extension of a compound key).	Collective Noun	A noun which refers to a set or group of people
<b>Natural</b>	A key made from data that exists outside the current database. In other words, the data is not system generated, such as a <b>social security number</b> imported from another system.	Common Noun	A noun which refers to people, places or things in general
<b>Surrogate</b>	An artificial key made from data that is system assigned or generated when another candidate key exists. Surrogate keys are usually numeric ID values and often used for performance reasons.	Abstract Noun	A noun which refers to ideas, qualities and conditions

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 Journal Entry #16

Key Name	Definition	Writing Term	Definition
<b>Candidate</b>	A key that may become the primary key.	Proper Noun	A noun which identifies a particular person, place or thing.
<b>Primary</b>	The key that is selected as the primary key. Only one key within an entity is selected to be the primary key. This is the key that is allowed to migrate to other entities to define the relationships that exist among the entities. When the data model is instantiated into a physical database, it is the key that the system uses the most when accessing the table, or joining the tables together when selecting data.	Noun phrase	a word or group of words which function as a noun in a sentence
<b>Alternate</b>	A non-primary key that can be used to identify only one row in a table. Alternate keys may be used like a primary key in a single-table select.	Concrete Noun	A noun which refers to people or things that exist physically
<b>Foreign</b>	A unique key that has migrated to another entity.	Plural noun	A noun which contains multiple parts of speech and senses