If you simply wanted to create the relationship between two different tables with many-to-many functionality but without any additional functionality, then you would want to use the db.Table syntax to create the many-to-many relationship. Using db.Table makes it easy to query the many-to-many relationship along with adding and removing records in the relationship. If you want to have additional attributes or columns in this association table (besides the two columns between the two entities that are being related) that is created through db.Table, then you would need to build two one-to-many relationships and an association table using the db.Model class. Such an additional attribute would be like adding a timestamp or type of affiliation. This additional functionality is not accessible through the db.Table class but can be made accessible through a model, which is why a model is needed versus a table.