**1. Data Source:** It can be a database, text file, excel spread sheet or an XML file.

**2. Data Provider:** A set of libraries that is used to communicate with data source. Eg: SQL data provider for SQL, Oracle data provider for Oracle, OLE DB data provider for access, excel or mysql.

**3. SQL Connection:** It establishes connection.

**4. SQL Command:** It allows to manipulate database by executing stored procedure or sql statements.

**5. SQL DataReader:** It provides a forward-only, read-only, connected recordset.

**6. DataSet:** dataset is a disconnected, in-memory representation of data. It can contain multiple data table from different database.

**7. SQL DataAdapter:** It populates dataset from data source. It contains a reference to the connection object and opens and closes the connection automatically when reading from or writing to the database.

**8. DataView:** It provides a means to filter and sort data within a data table.

**9. Disconnected Data Source:** Ado.net makes the connection to the database server only when it needs to do a transaction and disconnects once the transaction is over (similar to an http connection over the internet). This greatly reduces the network traffic.

**10. Strongly Typed Dataset Object:** Strongly typed Dataset object allows you to create early-bound data retrieval expression. It is faster than late-bound data retrieval expression.