







Explain the distinctions among the terms primary key, candidate key, and superkey.

A primary key a column that can identify all table records. The key must contain a unique value for each data row.

A candidate key is a column or set of columns that can unquiely identify any record in the database without referring to any other data. A primary key can be considered a special candidate key

A superkey is a combination of columns that uniquely identify any row within a database table.

A popular reason to use tables would be for student records. There are various datatypes that could be used when dealing with a student's record. A few examples are character, Integer, and Timestamp, and Decimal. To explain this, imagine a table with the title student records. It has 4 columns, which read "Student Name", "Age", "Date of Birth", and GPA. Their datatypes would be Character, Integer, Timestamp, and Decimal respectively. You could get creative and add boolean as a data type to this table. An easy example would be a column for transfer students; if they have transferred, it would return true, if not it would return false. There are a wide variety of data types that can be used for tables. Student name would most likely be the primary key, organizing the table in alphabetical order, so in this case, Character can not be null.

Explain the following relational "rules" with examples and reasons why they are important.

A. The "first normal form" rule

The fields should be atomic. What that means is, that in each column and row there should be a single value. This is important because it would be hard to search for content when it has multiple items.

B. The "access rows by content only" rule

Access by what, never where. You should always search by content, rather than location because the data isn't necessarily stored in an organized way. Just because the table we are viewing is organized, doesn't mean the data is.

C. The "all rows must be unique" rule

All rows should must be unique because if it wasn't unique, you couldn't access a specific row. If there were two of the same rows, primary keys would be useless.