



Naming Convention

Relational Database Design

Session Outline

- A look at naming conventions, what they are, and how to use them

Naming Conventions

- A naming convention defines how things are named
- Applies to tables and columns
- Also applies to other database objects which we won't discuss here

Names and Spaces

- Fields should all be named using a consistent method
- **Don't put spaces** in names of tables or fields
- Some databases support spaces, some don't, so it's best to leave it out
- How will you replace spaces? For example, our "Student Subject" table?
- CamelCase or Under_Score?
- **Underscore is usually better**, as camel case is often converted to a single case
 - student_subject
- Either way, **keep it consistent**
- Don't use underscore for some and camel case for others

Case

- What case should you name your tables and fields?
- Capitals? Lower case? Mixed?
- Again, keep it consistent
- Many databases ignore case
- Better to be consistent. Preferably all capitals

Primary Keys

- How do you identify primary keys?
- For a “table ID”:
 - Tableid, tableno, table_id, table_no, table_number?
- Again, keep it consistent
- I’ve chosen “table_id” in my examples and have been consistent

Summary

- Naming conventions define how tables and fields are named
- You should consider table and field names, spaces, case and how to identify primary keys
- Above all, stay consistent

Action

1. Ensure that your table names and field names are consistently named

What's Next?

- Learn about lookup tables and auditing