

```
</person>
```

```
<person id="mary" children="bob bridget">
```

```
  <name>Mary Poppins</name>
```

```
</person>
```

```
<person id="peter" children="bob">
```

```
  <name>Peter Marley</name>
```

```
</person>
```

```
</family>
```

Readers should study the references between persons.

XML Entities

An XML entity can play several roles, such as a placeholder for repeatable characters (a type of shorthand), a section of external data (e.g., XML or other), or as a part of a declaration for elements. For example, suppose that a document has several copyright notices that refer to the current year. Then it makes sense to declare an entity

```
<!ENTITY thisyear "2007">
```

Then, at each place the current year needs to be included, we can use the entity reference `&thisyear;` instead. That way, updating the year value to “2008” for the whole document will only mean changing the entity declaration.

A Concluding Example

As a final example we give a DTD for the email element presented previously:

```
<!ELEMENT email (head,body)>
```

```
<!ELEMENT head (from,to+,cc*,subject)>
```