A.1.3 Attributes

An empty element is not necessarily meaningless, because it may have some properties in terms of *attributes*. An attribute is a name-value pair inside the opening tag of an element:

```
<lecturer name="David Billington" phone="+61-7-3875 507"/>
```

Here is an example of attributes for a nonempty element:

```
<order orderNo="23456" customer="John Smith"
          date="October 15, 2002">
    <item itemNo="a528" quantity="1"/>
    <item itemNo="c817" quantity="3"/>
</order>
```

The same information could have been written as follows, replacing attributes with nested elements:

```
<order>
    <orderNo>23456</orderNo>
    <customer>John Smith</customer>
    <date>October 15, 2002</date>
    <item>
        <itemNo>a528</itemNo>
        <quantity>1</quantity>
    </item>
    <item>
        <itemNo>c817</itemNo>
        <quantity>3</quantity>
    </item>
</order>
```