Primary and Foreign keys are terms used to refer to two different keys in a database. A primary key is “used to ensure data in the specific column is unique.” (geeksforgeeks.org) It also cannot have any NULL values and is usually an existing table column. There can only be one primary key in a table as to not confuse any relations between other tables or its own columns. Its value cannot be deleted from the parent table as well.

A Foreign Key refers to a column, or even compound of multiple columns in a relational database table that create a link between two tables and their respective data. It will almost always refer to the field in a table that is the primary key of another table. This is how tables are generally linked in a relational database model. Unlike with a primary key which one is only allowed; it is possible to have multiple foreign keys in a table. It can also contain NULL values; however, this is not best practice.

The main purpose of the primary key and the foreign key is to be able to properly store, query, manipulate and link data within tables. Having a unique primary key allows for each column to have a unique identifier for easier access and querying. The foreign key or keys help to create links to tables within a database which helps to normalize data and access tables with more in-depth queries and helps to reduce clutter in a system.