**1 Entity Types**A group of objects with the same properties, which are identified by the enterprise as having an independent existence. An entity type has an independent existence and can be objects with a physical (or “real”) existence or objects with a conceptual (or “abstract”) existence.

**Entity occurrence** A uniquely identifiable object of an entity type.  
Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated  
Each uniquely identifiable object of an entity type is referred to simply as an **entity occurrence.**We identify each entity type by a name and a list of properties. A database normally contains many different entity types. Examples of entity types shown in Figure 12.1 include: Staff, Branch, PropertyForRent, and PrivateOwner.  
A relationship occurrence indicates the particular entity occurrences that are related. Throughout this book, we use the terms “relationship type” or “relationship occurrence.”

However, as with the term “entity,” we use the more general term “relationship” when the meaning is obvious. Consider a relationship type called Has, which represents an association between Branch and Staff entities, that is Branch Has Staff. Each occurrence of the Has relationship associates one Branch entity occurrence with one Staff entity occurrence. We can examine examples of individual occurrences of the Has relationship using a semantic net. A semantic net is an object-level model, which uses the symbol • to represent entities and the symbol e• to represent relationships. The semantic net in Figure 12.4 shows three examples of the Has relationships (denoted rl, r2, and r3). Each relationship describes an association of a single Branch entity occurrence with a single Staff entity occurrence.