

About relationships in an Access database (MDB)

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After you've set up different tables for each subject in your [Microsoft Access database](#), you need a way of telling Microsoft Access how to bring that information back together again. The first step in this process is to define [relationships](#) between your tables. After you've done that, you can create queries, forms, and reports to display information from several tables at once. For example, this form includes information from four tables:

The screenshot shows the 'Orders' form. At the top, there's a 'Bill To:' dropdown menu with 'Maison Dewey' selected, labeled with a circled '1'. Below it are several empty text boxes. A label '2' points to the 'Order ID: 10529' and 'Order Date: 07-Jun-00' fields. Below these is a table with three columns: 'Product', 'Unit Price', and 'Quantity'. The table contains three rows of product data, labeled with a circled '3'. The last row of the table is highlighted, labeled with a circled '4'.

| Product | Unit Price | Quantity |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Gudbrandsdalsost | \$24.00 | 14 |
| Scottish Longbread | \$12.50 | 20 |
| Pâté chinois | \$36.00 | 10 |

- 1 The Customers table
- 2 The Orders table
- 3 The Products table
- 4 The Order Details table

The customer name in the Bill To box is retrieved from the Customers table, the Order ID and the Order Date from the Orders table, the Product from the Products table, and the Unit Price and Quantity from the Order Details table. These tables are linked to each other in a variety of ways to bring information from each into the form.

The following sections explain in greater detail the types of relationships that are available, how they work together in the form, and what you should know about using relationships to make tables give you exactly the information you want from your database.

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