

## 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 an Access form titled "Orders". At the top, there is a "Bill To:" dropdown menu with "Maison Dewey" selected, marked with a circled 1. Below this are several empty text boxes. A horizontal line separates the header from the main content. Below the line, "Order ID: 10529" and "Order Date: 07-Jun-00" are displayed, marked with a circled 2. Below this is a table with three columns: "Product:", "Unit Price:", and "Quantity:". The table contains three rows of data, marked with a circled 3. The first row is "Gudergandschlopost" with a unit price of \$24.00 and a quantity of 14. The second row is "Scottish Longbread" with a unit price of \$12.50 and a quantity of 20. The third row is "Pâté chinois" with a unit price of \$36.00 and a quantity of 10. At the bottom of the table, there is a row with a star icon and empty cells, marked with a circled 4.

- 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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