

# Data element

## Definition

A [characteristic](#) of an [entity type](#).

## Synonym(s)

- Attribute
- Field
- Column
- Property

## Note(s)

Another definition is: A data element (DE) is a unit of data that is considered in context to be indivisible (ISO 11179:2015). However, this may also indicate a [data item](#).

A data element is specified by its name, definition, classification and [format](#).

## Relation(s)

[critical data element](#), [data element specification](#)

## Example(s)

Examples of data elements are:

- Employee name
- Employee date of birth
- Employee function name

## Reference(s)

DAMA NL (2020). Data concepts for Data Quality Dimensions (DSC). Research paper. <https://www.dama-nl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DCS-Data-Concept-System-DDQ-Research-Paper-version-1.2-d.d.-3-Sept-2020.pdf>

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