

# Data element

## Definition

Data element is a [characteristic](#) of an [entity type](#).

## Synonyms

- Attribute
- Field
- Column
- Property

## Notes

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](#).

## Relations

Data element	is parent of	<a href="#">critical data element</a>
Data element	is parent of	<a href="#">primary key</a>
Data element	is parent of	<a href="#">foreign key</a>
Data element	has	<a href="#">data items</a>
Data element	is specified by	<a href="#">data element specification</a>

## Examples

Examples of data elements are:

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

## Reference

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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