

Define a primary key field



- ✓ A primary key or **(PK)** in a relational database is a field in a table which uniquely identifies each row/record in a database table.
- ✓ Primary keys must contain unique values.
- ✓ A primary key column cannot have NULL values.
- ✓ A table can have only one primary key, which may consist of single or multiple fields.
- ✓ When multiple fields are used as a primary key, they are called a **composite key**.
- ✓ If a table has a primary key defined on any fields, then you cannot have two records having the same value of those fields.

The main goal of a primary key is therefore to avoid **data redundancy**.

- ✓ Each table in a relational database must have a primary key that uniquely identifies each record.
- ✓ A field (or collection of fields) in one table that refers to the PRIMARY KEY in another table is referred to as a **foreign key**.
- ✓ The table containing the foreign key is called the **child table**, and the table containing the candidate key is called the **referenced or parent table**. A foreign key is used to link two or more tables.