

Entities have **attributes**, or as they are sometimes called, **properties** that describe the entity's characteristics. Examples of attributes are EmployeeName, DateOfHire and JobSkillCode. The E-R model assumes that all instances of a given entity class have the same attributes.

The original E-R model definition includes both composite and multi-value attributes. An example of a composite attribute is Address which consists of the group of attributes {Street, City/Province, Zip/PostalCode}. An example of a multi-value attribute is ContactName in CUSTOMER, where more than one persons name is associated with a given Customer. An attribute can be both multi-value and composite; for example the composite attribute Phone {AreaCode, Number} could be multi-value to allow for multiple phone numbers. Most implementations of the E-R model ignore single-value composite attributes. They require multi-value attributes (whether composite or not) to be transformed into entities.