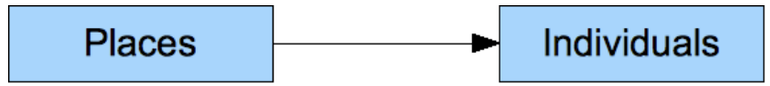
Entity-Relationship Diagram Explanation



Each rectangle represents an ENTITY, or data table, which corresponds to something in the real world. In this example our entities are **Places** and **Individuals**.

Each row in the table is an INSTANCE. So Chicago, IL is a Place and Jean Bauer is an Individual.
/*insert Monty Python joke here*/

PlaceName	PlaceType	StateIn	CountryIn	ContinentIn
Chicago, IL	City	Illinois	USA	North America

Each column in the table is an attribute or FIELD which records information about the instance (Chicago is a city, Jean Bauer was born on July 10, 1982).

Entities are connected by RELATIONSHIPS when they share data from the same field. In this example, **Places** is connected to **Individuals** through the BirthPlace field. Because of this relationship, Jean Bauer's instance in Individuals has access to all the information about Chicago, IL contained in the Places table.

PersonName	BirthDate	BirthPlace
Jean Bauer	July 10 1982	***Chicago, IL***