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Microsoft® Access® 2010

The Fast and Easy Way to Learn

Faithe Wempen
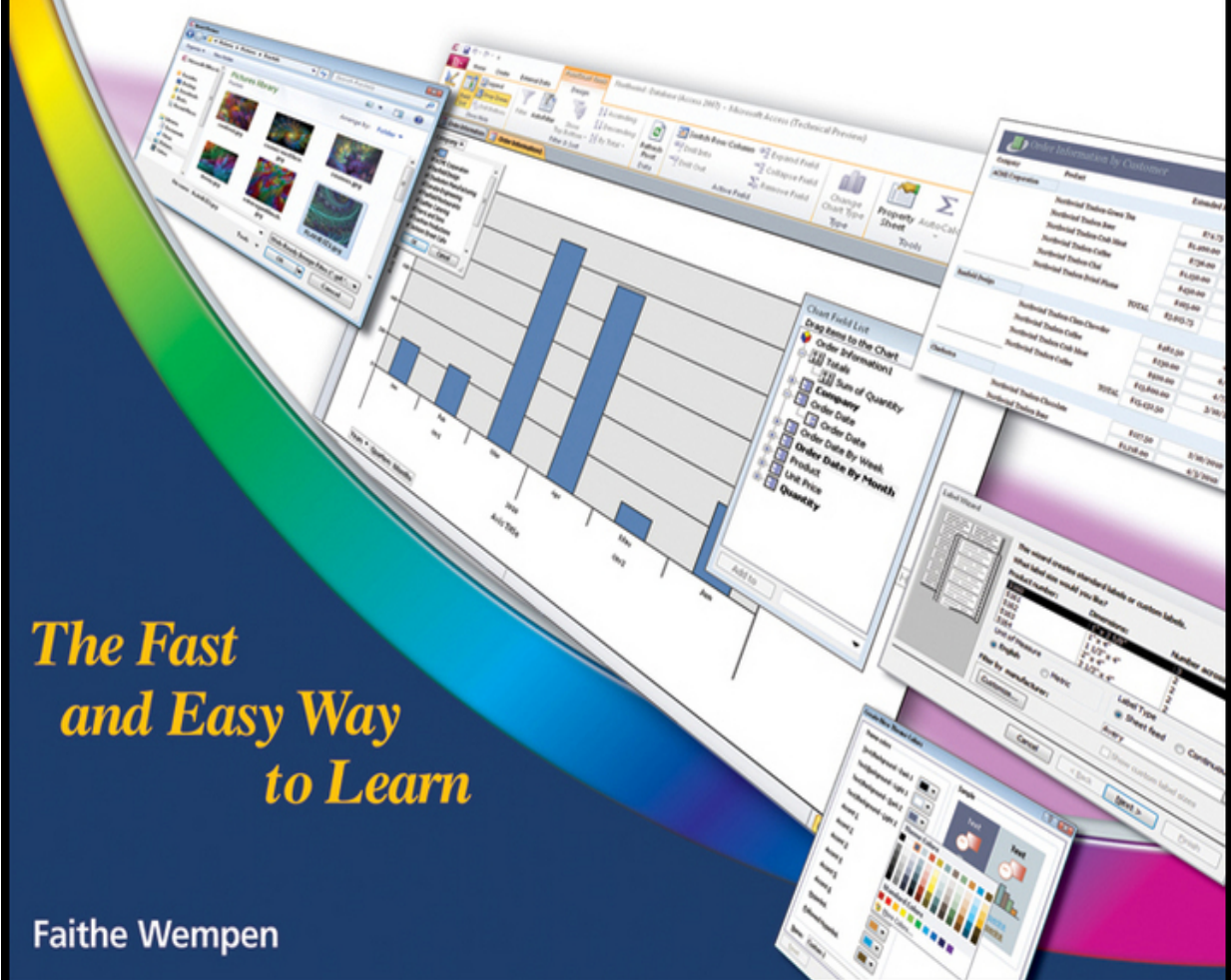
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by Faithe Wempen

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Trademark Acknowledgments

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Faithe Wempen, M.A., is a Microsoft Office Specialist Master Instructor and the author of over 100 books on computer hardware and software, including the *PowerPoint 2010 Bible, Microsoft Office 2010 for Seniors for Dummies, and A+ Certification Workbook for Dummies*.

Faithe is currently an adjunct instructor of computer information technology at IUPUI, where she teaches PC hardware and software architecture and A+ certification. Her online courses for corporate clients, including Hewlett Packard, Sony, and CNET, have educated over a quarter of a million students all over the world.

Author's Acknowledgments

Thanks to my wonderful team of editors at Wiley for another job well done, including Jody Lefevere, Christopher Stolle, Marylouise Wiack, and Joyce Nielsen.

How to Use This Book

Who This Book Is For

This book is for the reader who has never used this particular technology or software application. It is also for readers who want to expand their knowledge.

The Conventions in This Book

① Steps

This book uses a step-by-step format to guide you easily through each task. Numbered steps are actions you must

do; bulleted steps clarify a point, step, or optional feature; and indented steps give you the result of the action.

❷ Notes

Notes give additional information — special conditions that may occur during an operation, a situation that you want to avoid, or a cross-reference to a related area of the book.

❸ Icons and Buttons

Icons and buttons show you exactly what you need to click to perform a step.

❹ Tips

Tips offer additional information, including warnings and shortcuts.

❺ Bold

Bold type shows command names, options, or text or numbers you must type.

❻ Italics

Italic type introduces and defines a new term.

Chapter 1: Getting Started with Access 2010

Are you new to Access or upgrading to the latest version? This chapter explains how to create a database as well as how to navigate through the new-and-improved Microsoft Office Access 2010 interface.
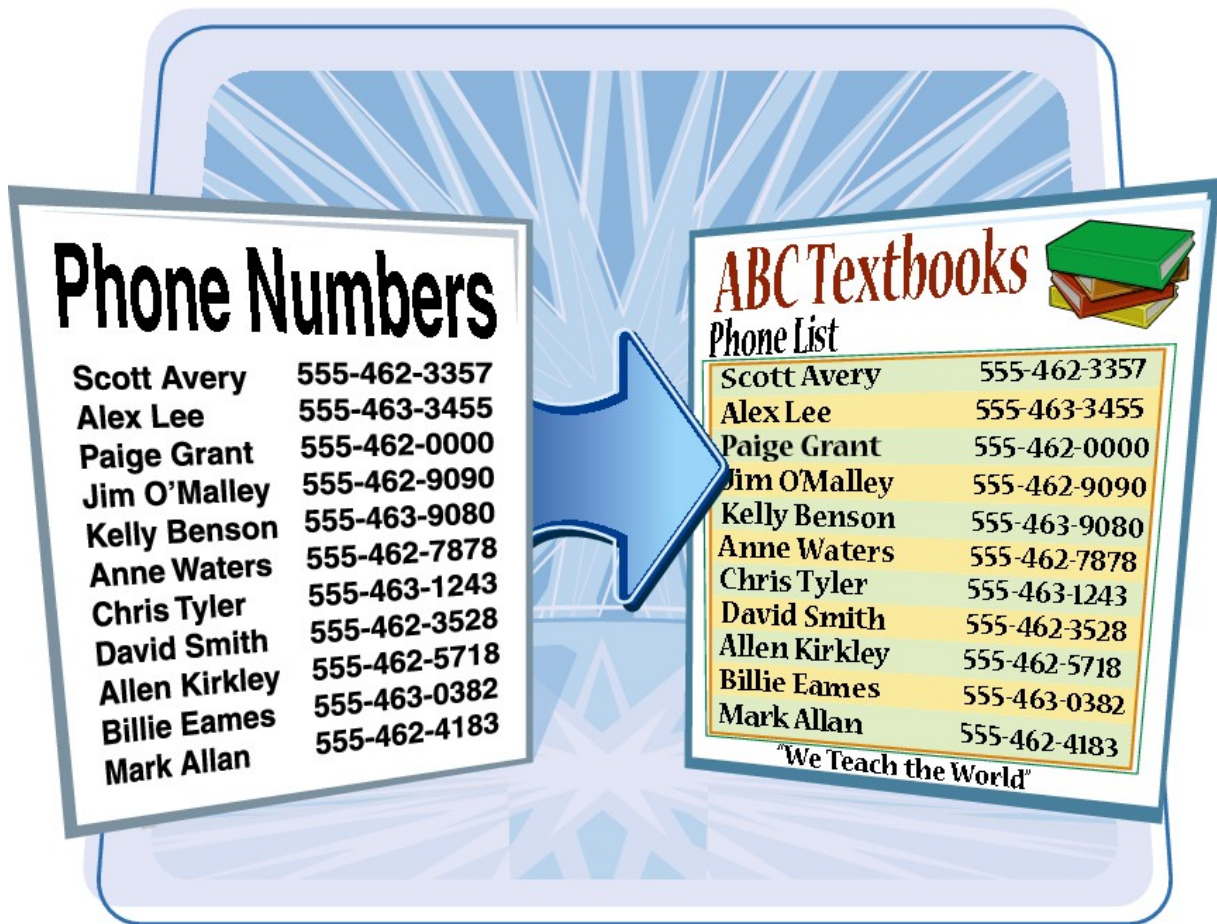
[An Introduction to Access 2010](#)

[Start and Exit Access 2010](#)

An Introduction to Access 2010

Microsoft Access 2010 is a program for creating databases to store business or personal data. You can use Access to create, retrieve, and manage large or small collections of information.
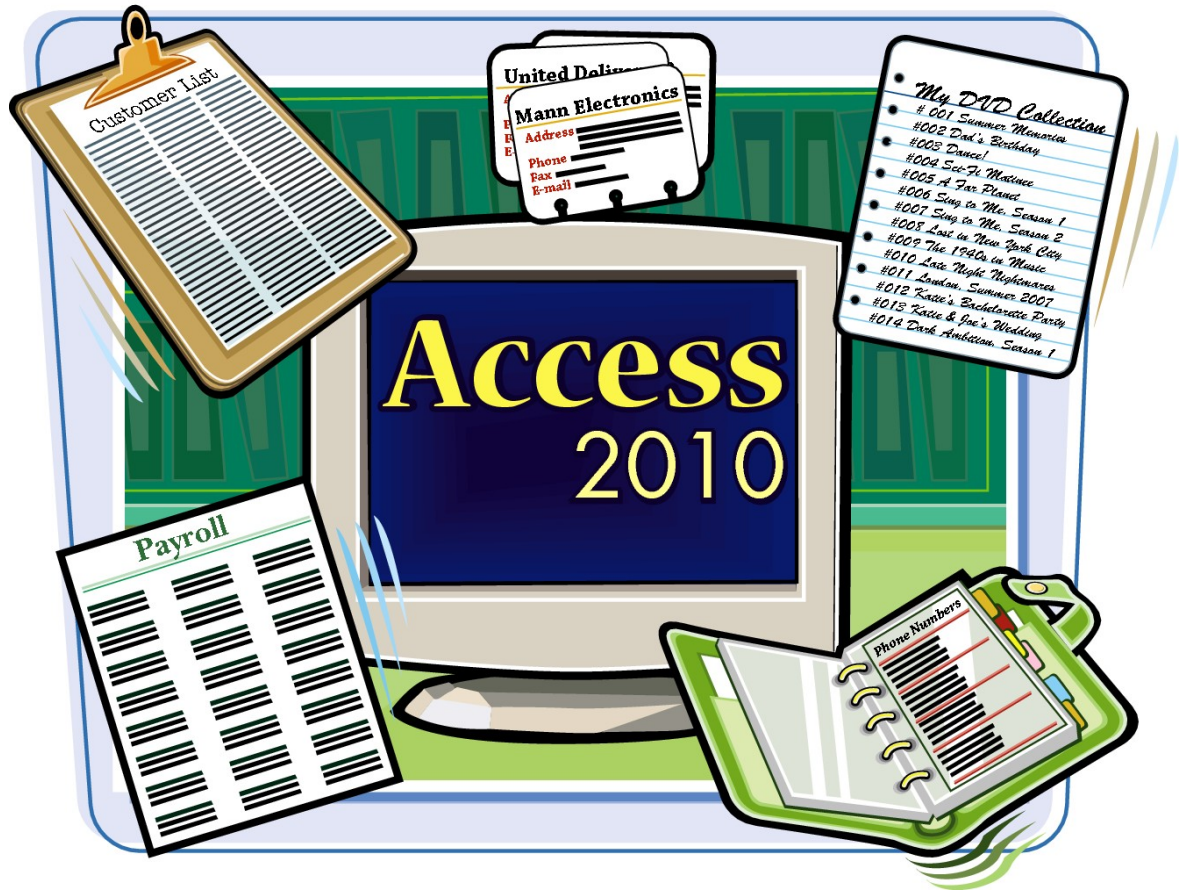
Relational Databases

Microsoft Access creates *relational databases* — that is, databases that can contain multiple tables with links between them. For example, a business may have a Customers table for storing customer contact information and an Orders table for storing information about orders placed. Each customer in the Customers table has a unique ID, and each order in the Orders table references a specific customer ID.
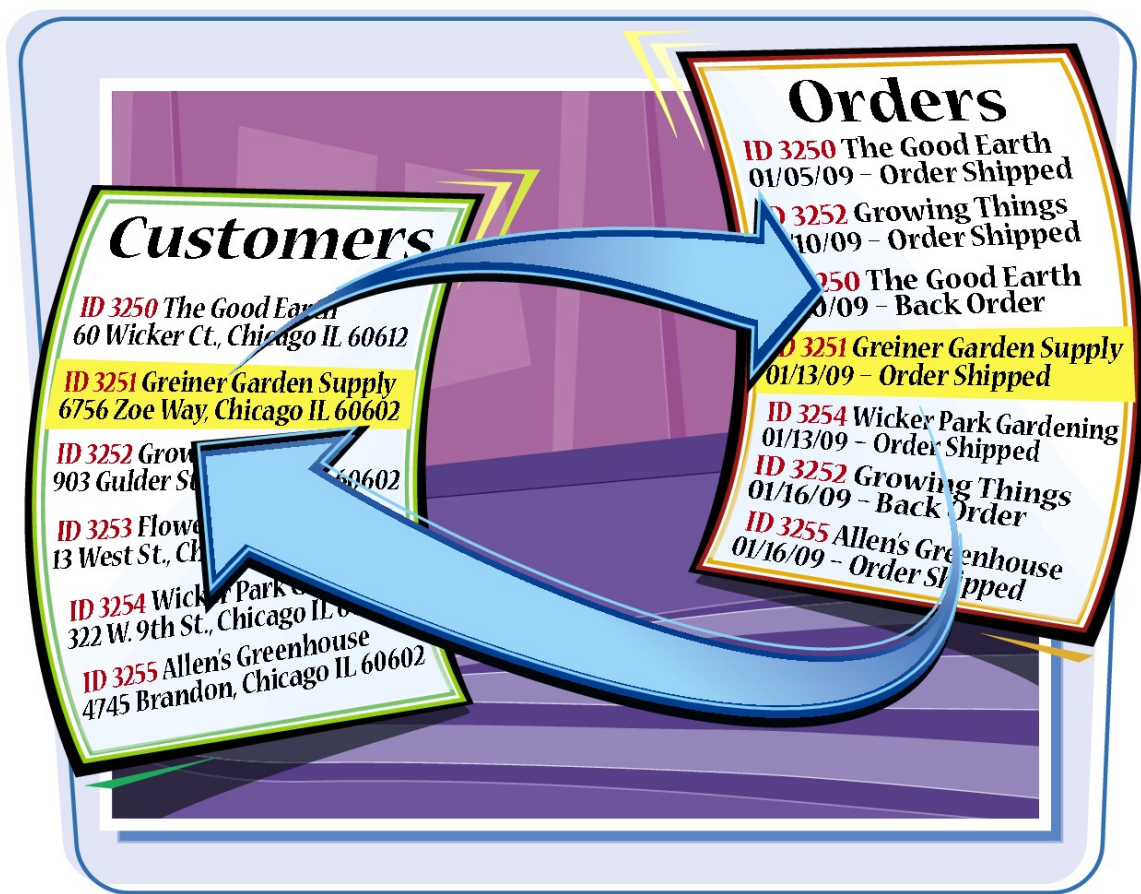
Tables, Records, and Fields

In Access, data is stored in *tables,* and each individual entry in the table is called a *record.* For example, in a Customers table, the information about each customer is a separate record. Each record is composed of one or more *fields* that contain individual pieces of data. For example, customer fields may include Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code.
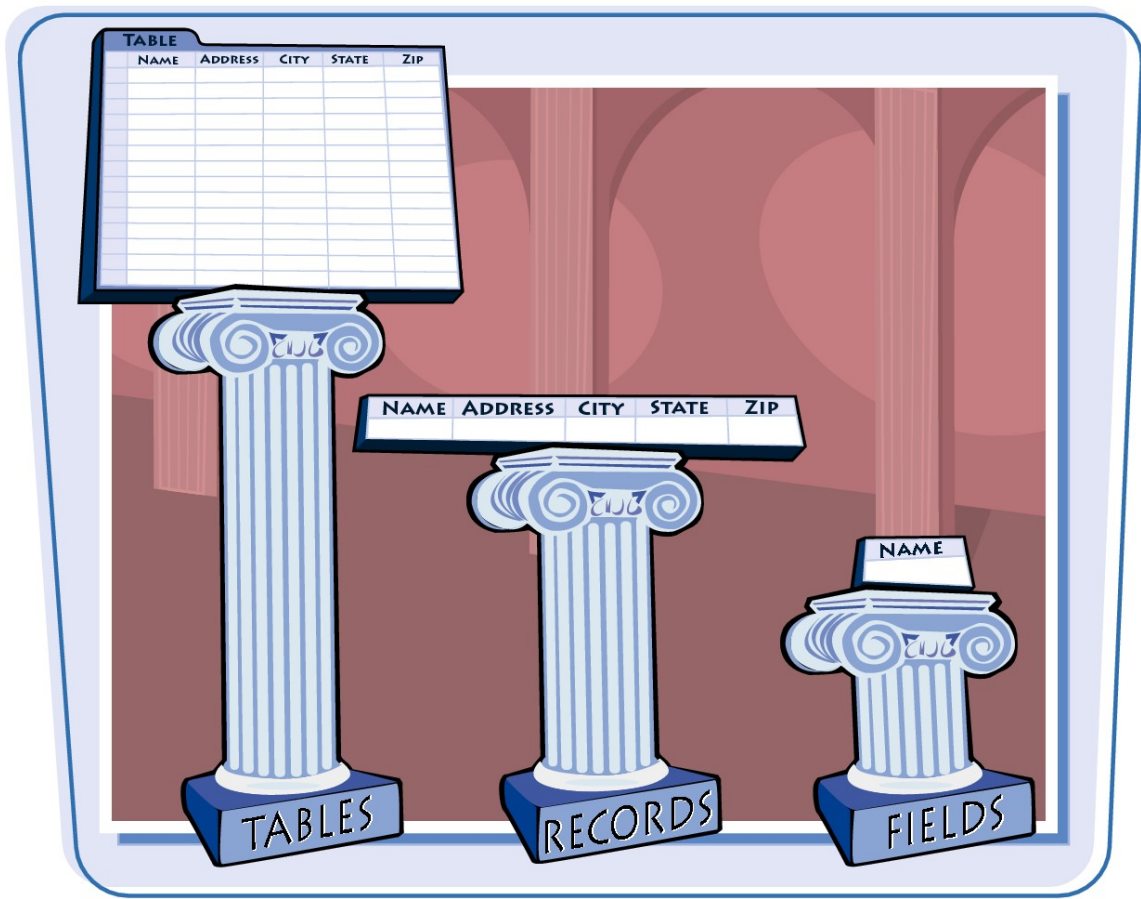
Datasheets and Forms

By default, each table appears as a spreadsheet grid called a *datasheet.* You can type directly into a datasheet. To make data entry more convenient, some people choose to create on-screen *forms,* which are like dialog boxes that prompt for field entries. An attractively formatted form is easier and more pleasant to use to enter new records than a plain datasheet.
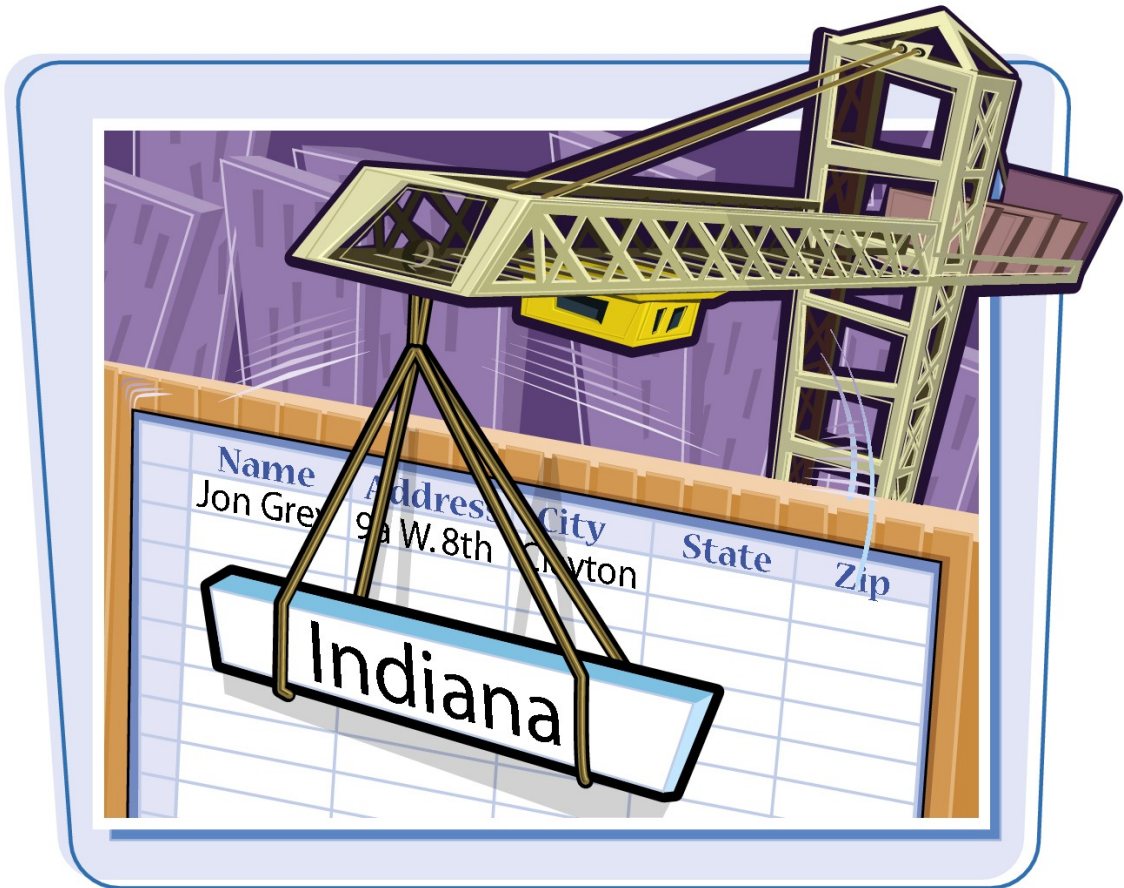
Filters and Queries

It is often useful to display a filtered view of a table. You can filter a table to show only certain records, only certain fields, or both. You can run a one-time filter or you can create a *query,* which is like a saved filter. Queries also enable you to combine data from multiple related tables into a single datasheet of results.
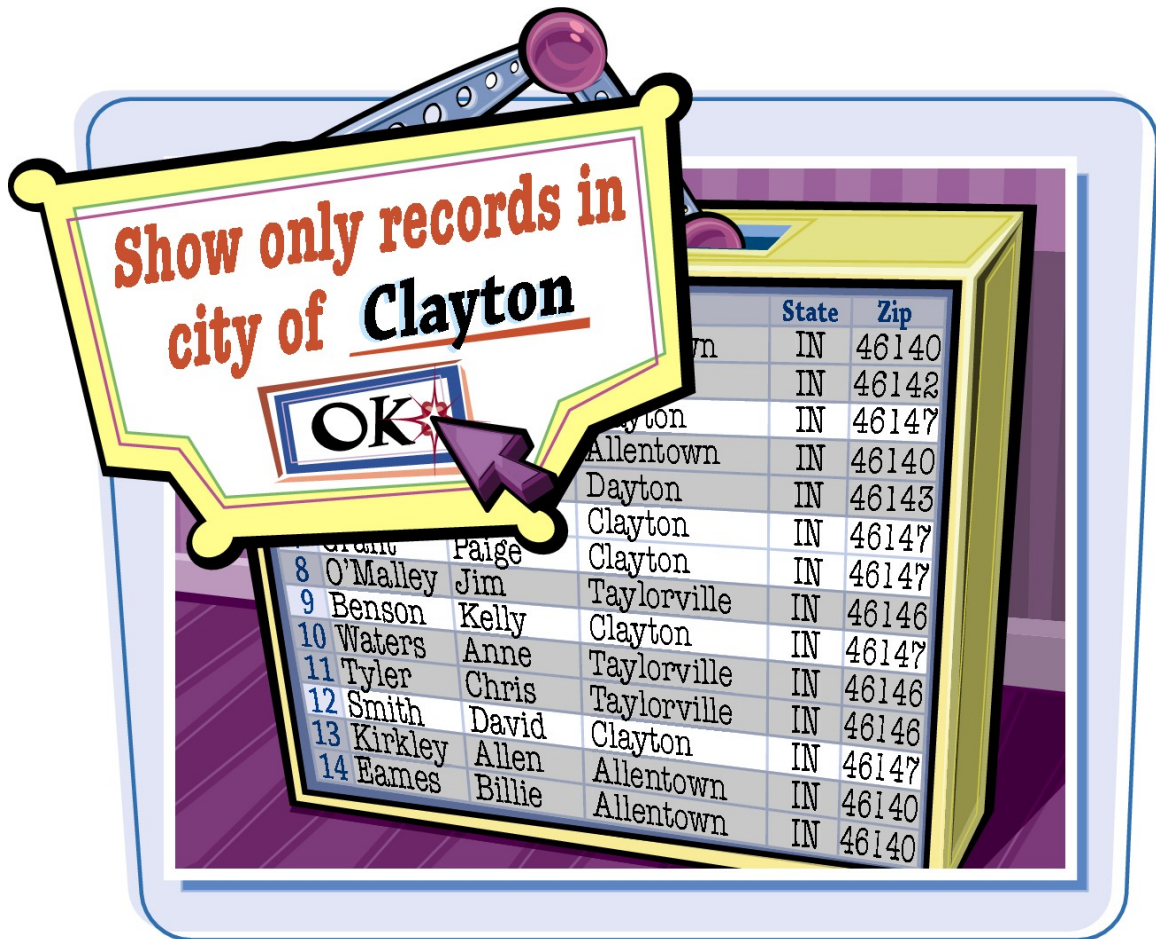
Reports

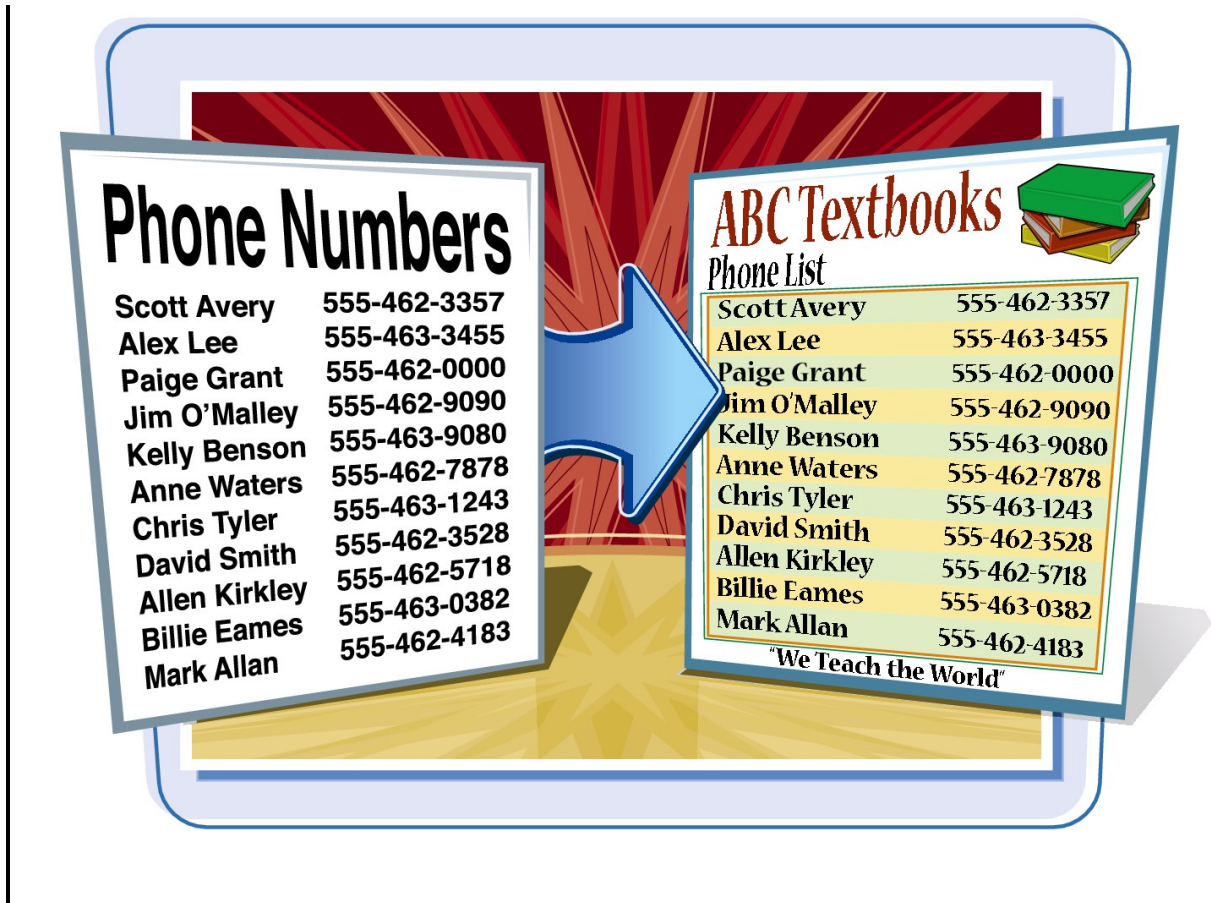Tables and query results appear in plain datasheets, which are not very attractive when printed. Reports present data from tables and queries in an attractive, customizable format — complete with titles, headers and footers, and even logos and graphics.
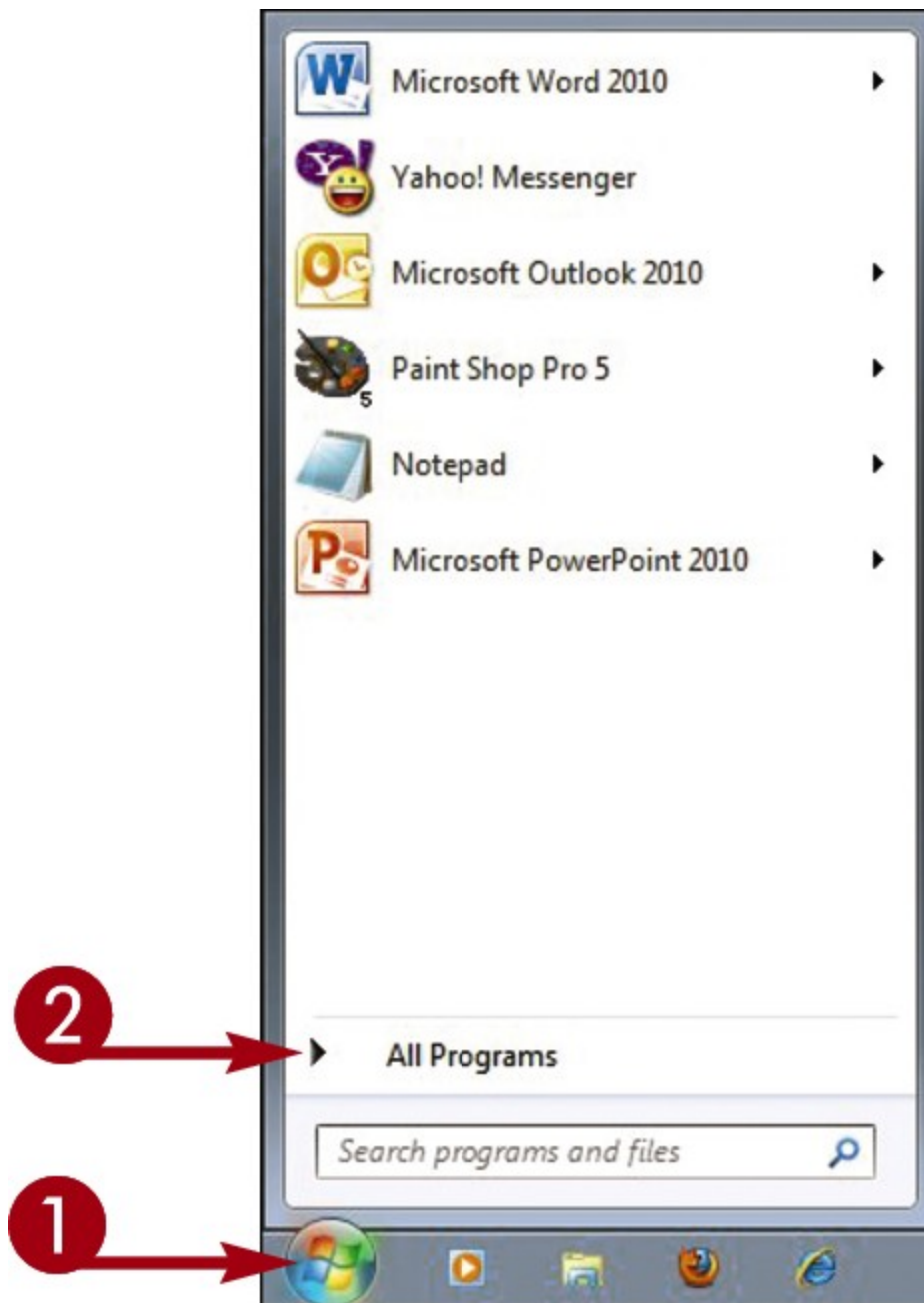
Start and Exit Access

Before you can create or open a database file, you must first start Access. Access starts with the File menu open and the New command selected. From here, you can create a new database or open an existing one. When you are finished working with Access, you should exit the program.

Start and Exit Access

Start Access

① Click **Start**.

② Click **All Programs**.