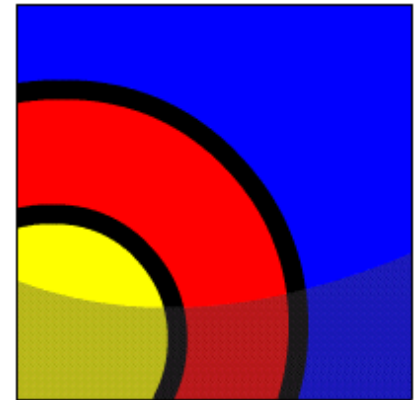


Effective Questioning: Finding the Missing Link

What Will I Learn?

In this lesson, you will learn to:

- Understand the importance of effective questioning in gaining a complete picture of client needs
- Complete the image and identify the "missing link" of the puzzle
- Identify areas of the "missing link" exercise that are similar to entity relationship modeling



Why Learn It?

The data modeler is a kind of detective.

Sometimes clients don't even know that something is missing from their description of what you want them to build.

Asking the right questions and working with others to bring out the important information for the task is crucial to the success of the project.



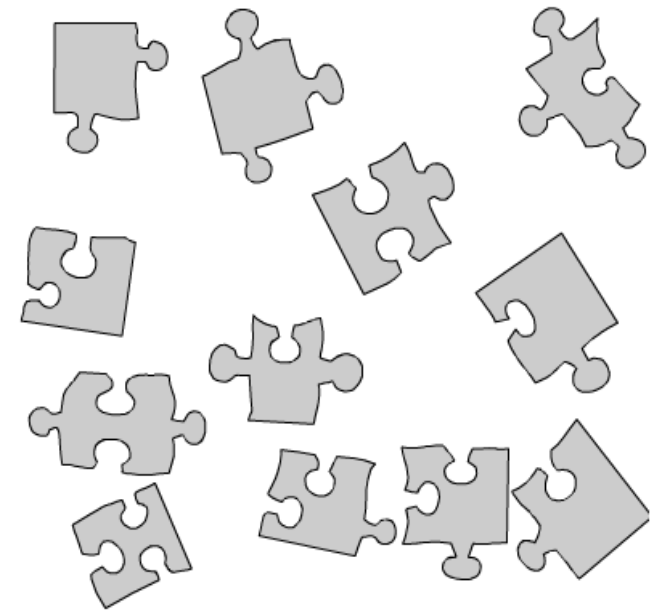
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Tell Me / Show Me

A client's description of his/her requirements may be incomplete.

Often, clients themselves do not know exactly what they want. They may give you only some pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.

The data modeler must be able to question the client in order to identify the missing pieces and produce the complete picture.



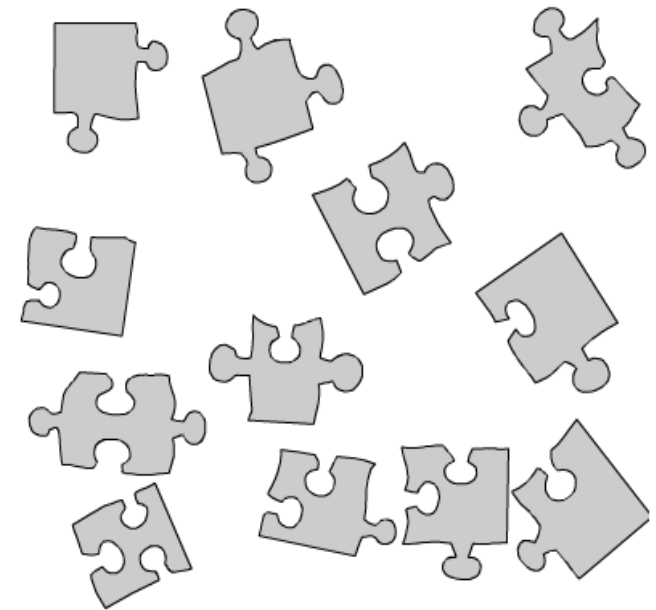
Tell Me / Show Me

“We need to keep data about our employees, the jobs they do and how much money they earn.

For each employee, we need to know his/her first and last names and when they joined our company.

Oh yes, and we need to be able to contact them in an emergency if they are away from the office.”

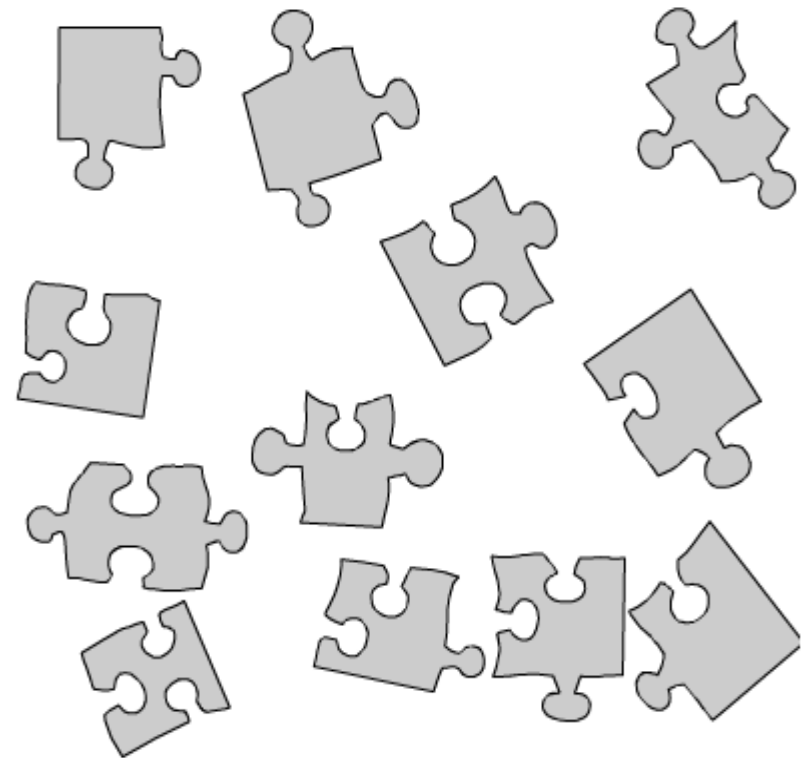
What extra questions would you ask in order to get a more complete picture of this client's needs ?



Tell Me / Show Me

Working in groups, you will all participate in the Missing Link activity.

Your teacher will distribute the materials and give you directions on how to complete it.

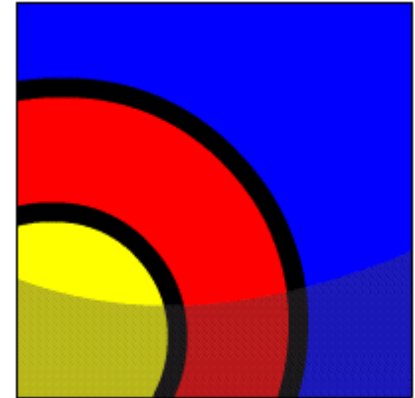


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Summary

In this lesson, you have learned to:

- Understand the importance of effective questioning in gaining a complete picture of client needs
- Complete the image and identify the "missing link" of the puzzle
- Identify areas of the "missing link" exercise that are similar to entity relationship modeling



Summary

Practice Guide

The link for the lesson practice guide can be found in the course outline.

