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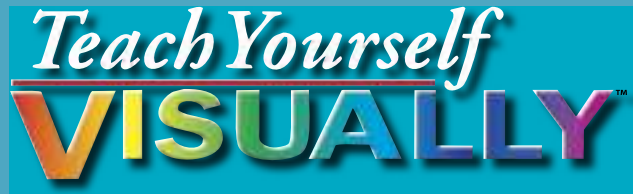
Microsoft®

Access® 2013

The Fast and Easy Way to Learn



Paul McFedries



Microsoft®
Access® 2013



by Paul McFedries



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Paul McFedries is a full-time technical writer. Paul has been authoring computer books since 1991 and has more than 80 books to his credit. His books have sold more than four million copies worldwide. These books include the Wiley titles *Teach Yourself VISUALLY Microsoft Excel 2013*, *Teach Yourself VISUALLY Microsoft Windows 8*, *Windows 8 Visual Quick Tips*, *iPhone 5 Portable Genius*, and *iPad 4th Generation and iPad mini Portable Genius*. Paul is also the proprietor of Word Spy (www.wordspy.com), a website that tracks new words and phrases as they enter the language. Paul invites you to drop by his personal website at www.mcfedries.com or follow him on Twitter at @paulmcf and @wordspy.

Author's Acknowledgments

It goes without saying that writers focus on text, and I certainly enjoyed focusing on the text that you will read in this book. However, this book is more than just the usual collection of words and phrases. A quick thumb through the pages will show you that this book is also chock-full of images, including sharp screenshots. Those colorful images make for a beautiful book, and that beauty comes from a lot of hard work by Wiley's immensely talented group of designers and layout artists. They are all listed in the Credits section on the previous page, and I thank them for creating another gem. Of course, what you read in this book must also be accurate, logically presented, and free of errors. Ensuring all of this was an excellent group of editors that included project editor and copy editor Dana Lesh and technical editor Vince Averello. Thanks for your exceptional competence and hard work. Thanks, as well, to Wiley executive editor Jody Lefevere for asking me to write this book.

How to Use This Book

Whom This Book Is For

This book is for the reader who has never used Microsoft Access. It is also for readers who want to expand their knowledge of Access and learn about the features of the latest version.

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 perform; **bulleted steps** clarify a point, step, or optional feature; and **indented steps** give you the result.

2 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.

3 Icons and Buttons

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

4 Tips

Tips offer additional information, including warnings and shortcuts.

5 Bold

Bold type shows command names or options that you must click and text or numbers you must type.

6 Italics

Italic type introduces and defines a new term.

Create a Validation RuleCHAPTER 4
Working with Fields


6 Although an input mask helps a user enter data into a field using the proper number and type of characters, it cannot restrict the field to certain entries based on logic. A better solution for preventing data-entry errors is the data validation feature. With data validation, you create *validation rules* that specify exactly what kind of data can be entered in a field and in what range that data can fall. You can also specify an error message that appears when a user enters data that does not satisfy a validation rule.

Create a Validation Rule

1 Create the Rule

1 In the Design view, click in the field for which you want to create a validation rule. The properties for that field appear.

2 Click in the **Validation Rule** row.

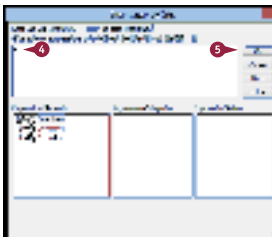

3 Click  **3**

The Expression Builder dialog box opens.

4 Enter the expression that represents the criteria you want to specify.

5 Click **OK**.

2 **Note:** You could have simply typed the validation rule into the row and skipped steps 3 to 5, but the Expression Builder's tools can be useful for complex expressions.

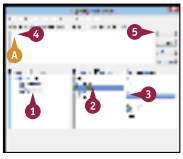


4 **TIP**

How do I use the Expression Builder?



The Expression Builder can guide you in determining the correct syntax for an expression. There are many types of expression content available, including functions, constants, and operators. For example, to enter the expression from the steps in this section (>0), you would do the following:

- 1 Click **Operators**.
- 2 Click **Comparison**.
- 3 Double-click **>**.
- 4 The **>** character appears in the expression at the top of the dialog box.
- 4 Type **0**.
- 5 Click **OK**.



4 The validation rule appears in the Validation Rule row.

5 Type the text for the error message in the **Validation Text** row.



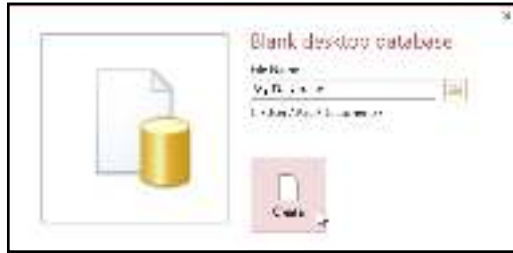
1 Click **OK** and then retype the field entry.

6 Type the text for the error message in the **Validation Text** row.

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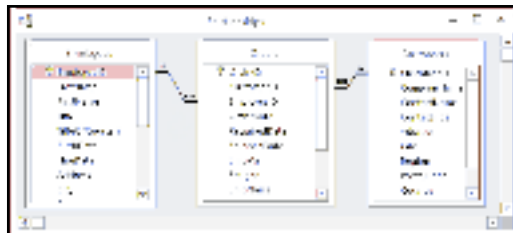
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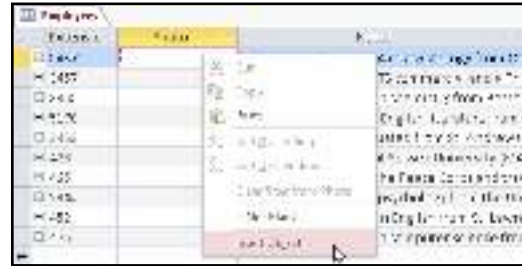
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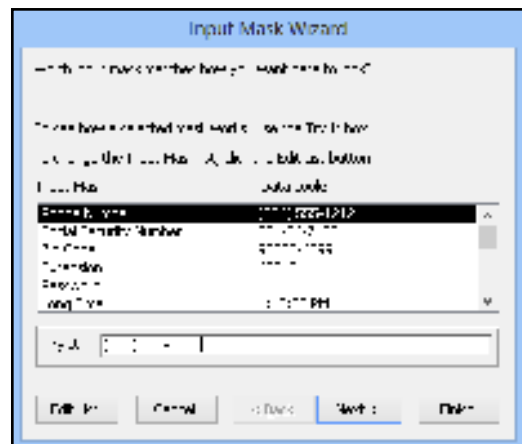
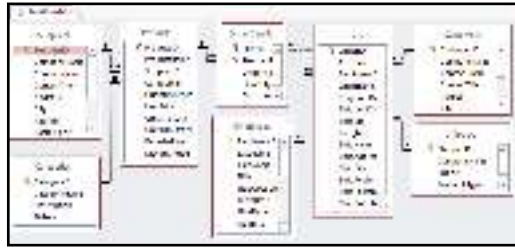


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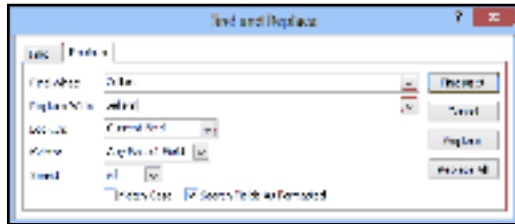
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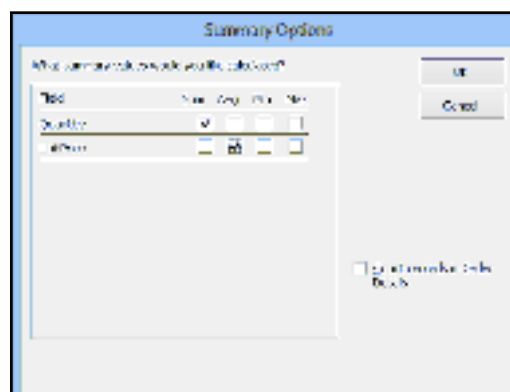
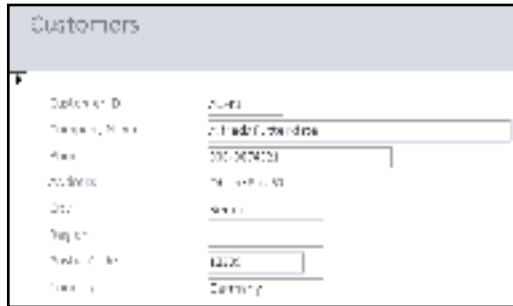


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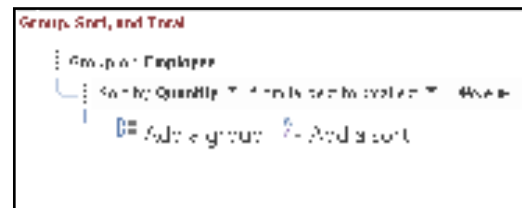


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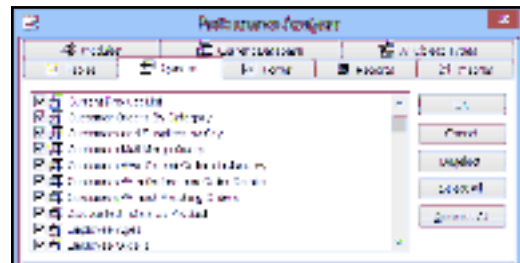
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Getting Started with Access

Are you new to Microsoft Access or upgrading to the latest version of the program? This chapter introduces you to Access and to some useful database concepts. You also learn how to create and open a database as well as how to navigate through the Access interface.



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An Introduction to Access

Microsoft Access is a program for creating and working with special files called *databases*, which are designed to store collections of related information. For example, one database might store business data such as customers, invoices, and inventory, whereas another might store personal data such as contacts, movies, and household items. You can use Access to create, retrieve, and manage large or small collections of information.

To get the most out of Access, you need to understand basic concepts such as tables, records, and fields; database objects such as datasheets and forms; and database tools such as filters, queries, and reports.

Tables, Records, and Fields

In Access, data is stored in *tables*, and each individual entry in a 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. In this example, customer fields may include Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code.




The screenshot shows a table with the following columns: Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code. The data is as follows:

Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Michael Chen	12345 Main St	Seattle	WA	98101
Jane Smith	56789 Oak St	Portland	OR	97201
Robert Johnson	98765 Pine St	San Francisco	CA	94101
Emily Davis	23456 Elm St	Denver	CO	80201
David Wilson	78901 Maple St	Phoenix	AZ	85001
Sarah Lee	34567 Birch St	Chicago	IL	60601
Christopher Brown	65432 Cedar St	Los Angeles	CA	90001
Amanda White	87654 Spruce St	San Diego	CA	92101
Kevin Garcia	10987 Willow St	San Antonio	TX	78201
Michelle Rodriguez	43210 Ash St	San Jose	CA	95101
Jason Miller	98765 Hickory St	San Jose	CA	95101

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.



The screenshot shows a form with the following fields: Customer ID, Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, and Phone. The data is as follows:

Customer ID	10001	Name	John Doe
Company Name	ABC Corporation	Region	North
Contact Name	John Doe	Title Code	MR
Contact Title	Senior Representative	Country	USA
Address	123 Main St	City	San Jose
		State	CA
		Zip	95101
		Phone	408-555-1234

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.

Company Name	Country/Region	Quantity
Wrench Fasten Co.	Mexico	1000
Anderson-Peterson Co.	United States	10000
Langstaff Consulting	Central Region	2000
Shawnee Bell Insurance	United States	20000
Wintersmith Products	Southwest Region	4000
Greenway	United States	20000
Orion Consulting Inc.	Florida Region	20000
Cooper-Robert Holdings	United States	20000
Enterprise Consultants	East Region	20000
Davis Handal	Midwest Region	20000
Peterson Inc.	Mexico	10000
Harmon Systems	East Region	20000
Transwarp Solutions	Central Region	10000
West Coast Steel & Coil	Midwest Region	20000

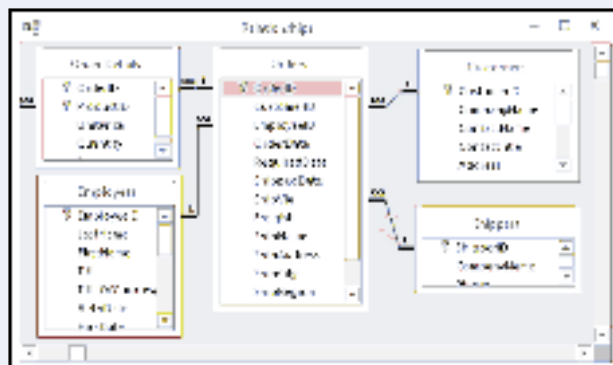
Reports

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.

Summary of Sales by Quarter		
All Sales		
Quarter 1		
Item	Quantity Sold	Price
Widget	60	\$4.00
Gadget	100	\$30.00
Quarter 2		
Item	Quantity Sold	Price
Widget	70	\$4.90
Gadget	60	\$29.40

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.



Start and Exit Access

Before you can create or open a database file, you must first start Access. This brings the Access window onto the Windows desktop so that you can then begin using the program.

How you start Access depends on which version of Windows you are using. In this section, you learn how to start Access 2013 in Windows 8 and in Windows 7. When you are finished working with Access, you should exit the program.

Start and Exit Access

Start Access in Windows 8

- 1 On the Windows 8 Start screen, click **Access 2013**.

The Microsoft Access window appears on the desktop.



Start Access in Windows 7

- 1 Click **Start**.
- 2 Click **All Programs**.




- 3 Click **Microsoft Office 2013**.
- 4 Click **Access 2013**.



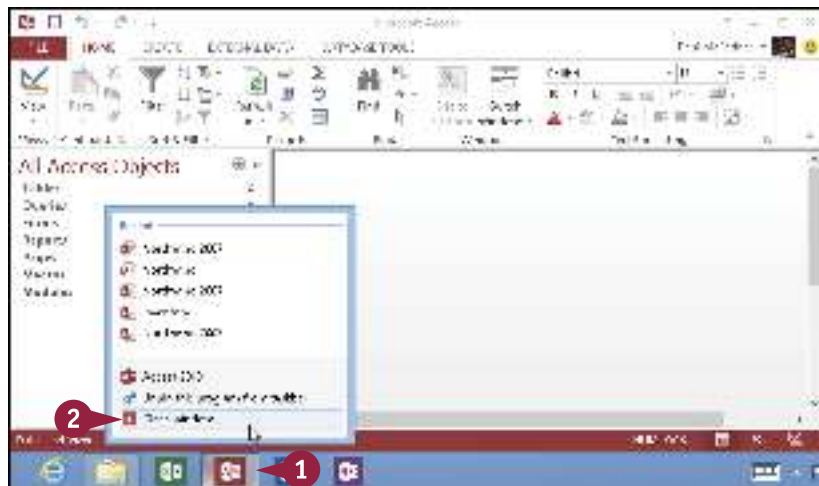
The Microsoft Access window appears on the desktop.

Exit Access

- 1 Right-click the Access taskbar button ().
- 2 Click **Close window**.

Note: If you have two or more database files open, click **Close all windows** instead.

Access closes, returning you to your desktop view.



TIP

Are there faster methods that I can use to start Access?

Yes. After you have used Access a few times in Windows 7, it should appear on the main Start menu in the list of your most-used programs. If so, you can click that icon to start the program. You can also force the Access icon onto the Start menu by following steps 1 to 3 in the “Start Access in Windows 7” subsection, right-clicking the **Microsoft Access 2013** icon, and then clicking **Pin to Start Menu**. If you are using Windows 8, you can right-click the **Access 2013** tile and then click **Pin to Taskbar** to add the Access icon to the desktop taskbar.

Create a Blank Database

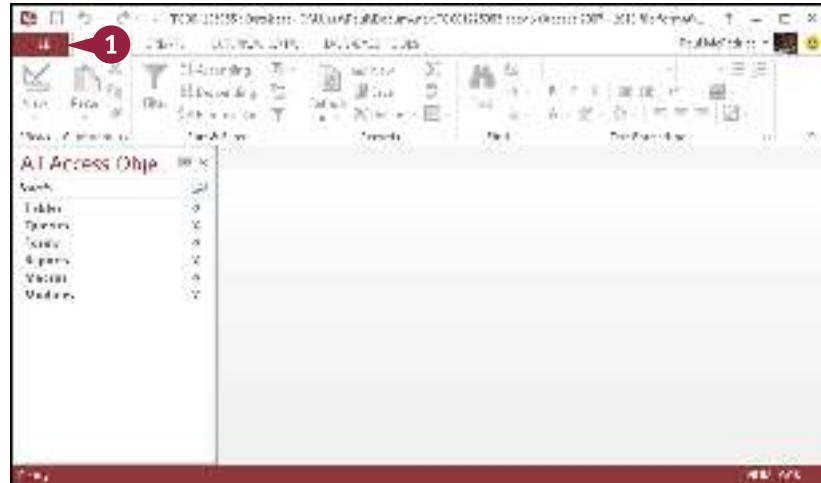
The simplest way to get started with Microsoft Access is to create a blank database. A blank database contains only a single, empty table and no other database objects, such as queries, forms, or reports. A blank database provides the freedom to create exactly the objects that you want for your project.

If another person or your company has provided you with a database file, you should open that file instead; see the section “Open a Database.”

Create a Blank Database

1 Click **File**.

Note: If you have just started Access, skip to step 3.

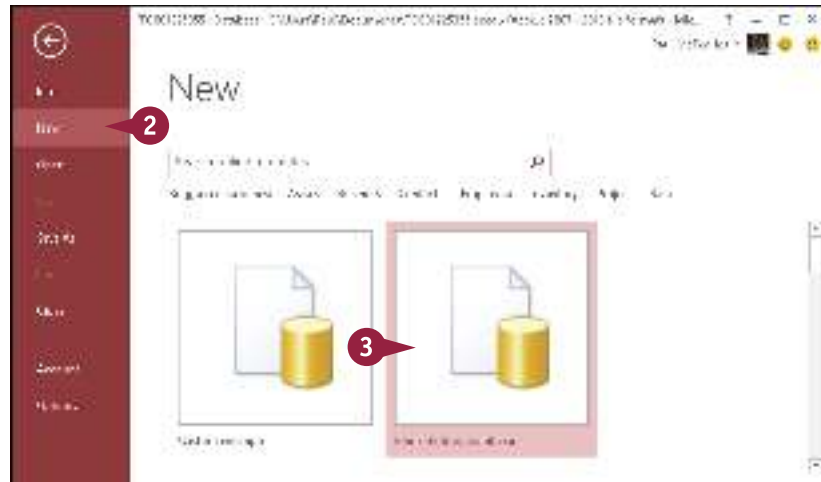


The File options appear.

2 Click **New**.

The New options appear.

3 Click **Blank desktop database**.

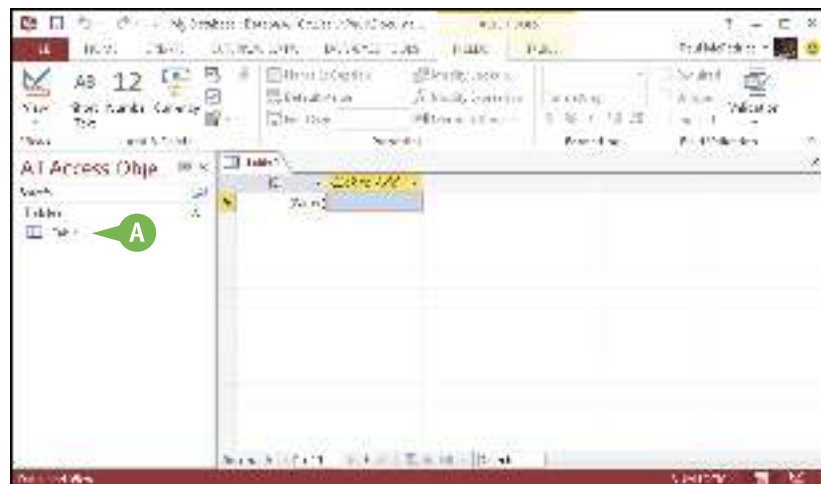


The Blank Desktop Database dialog box appears.

- 4 Type a filename for the database.
- 5 Click **Create**.



- A A new database opens, with a new blank table started.



TIP

Are there shortcuts that I can use to create a blank database?

Yes, Access offers a couple of techniques that you can use to shorten the process of creating a blank database. First, you can quickly display the New tab by pressing **Ctrl** + **N**. Second, if you prefer to use your mouse to begin the process of creating a blank database, you can add the New command to the Quick Access Toolbar. After you have done this, you can click **New** on the Quick Access Toolbar to go directly to the New tab. See the section “Customize the Quick Access Toolbar” to learn how to add commands to this toolbar.

Create a Database by Using a Template

Rather than start from scratch with a blank database, you can get your database project off the ground easier and faster by creating a new database based on a template.

A *template* is a special file that includes prefabricated database objects that you can use right away. For example, a contact management template might include a table with fields such as Name, Address, and Phone, as well as a form for entering data and a report that organizes the contacts into an address book. With a template, all you do is fill in the data, and Access does the rest.

Create a Database by Using a Template

1 Start Microsoft Access.

Note: If Access is already running, click **File** and then click **New** instead.

2 Type a word that describes the type of database you want to create.

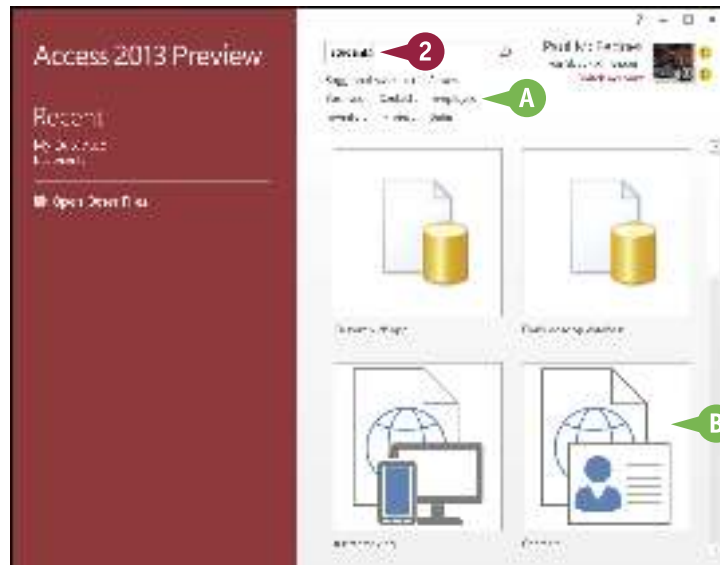
A You can also click any of these suggested template search terms.

B You can also click one of these Microsoft-supplied templates that are stored on your computer and then skip to step 5.

3 Press **Enter**.

The search results appear.

4 Click the template that best matches your needs.



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