**A Word on Referential Integrity**

Here is the Wikipedia definition of Referential Integrity:

“Referential integrity is a property of data stating that all its references are valid. In the context of relational databases, it requires that if a value of one attribute (column) of a relation (table) references a value of another attribute (either in the same or a different relation), then the referenced value must exist.”

In Business-person English, looking at the Access relationships below, Referential Integrity means Access will NOT let us add a record to the Order table for a custid that does not exist. More plainly, we could not create an Order for a non-existent Customer.

Similarly, we could not create an Order for a non-existent product.

Hopefully you agree that enforcing Referential Integrity will help us keep our data “cleaner” (What would your employees do to fulfill an Order for a product you don’t make sold to a customer you don’t have?). In Access you know Referential Integrity has not been enforced if the “1 to infinity (sideways 8)” does not show up on the relationship line. You want the “1 to infinity (sideways 8)” to be there, as shown in the picture below.



