An entity class is called **weak** if there's no unique key. It needs to have an N:1 or 1:1 relationship to a nearby class to help identify its entities uniquely. Sometimes a weak class will have a **partial key**, which is a set of attributes that, together with that other nearby class, will identify its entities uniquely. In our ERD we show the weak entity classes and their defining relationship by rounded corners and partial keys by broken underlines.