## Troubleshooting Code

How to improve your relationship with the $R$ interpreter


TL; DR

## How to handle an error message:

1. Read the message, and determine its type
2. If it IS a common type of error, take the recommended steps to resolve it
3. If it's NOT a common type, read the message again. Compare it to your code. Try to fix the error
a. Review the example syntax for what you're trying to do
b. Search the error message online
4. Restart the R Kernel. Step through and run the code cell by cell
5. Ask for help
a. lab partner, team member
b. teaching team, in class
c. classmates and teaching team, on Slack
d. office hours


| ERROR MESSAGE | problem | troubleshooting |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Function not found | R can't find that FUNCTION | Check spelling; import packages |
| Object not found | R can't find that VARIABLE | Check spelling; check you created the object |
| unexpected INCOMPLETE_STRING | Missing or extra quotation marks | Check that strings are enclosed in " |
| non-numeric argument to binary operator | " "quotation marks around the wrong thing <br> Trying to perform an operator on a column of the wrong data type | Check you're using "quotations" correctly Check the data types of the columns (variables) in the expression: hint use glimpse() |
| Error: Problem with <br> 'filter()' input `..1`. X Input '..1' is named. This usually means that you've used '=` instead of '==`. | Using $=$ instead of $==$ | Remember that = means "assign this to that" And == means "does this equal that?" |
| argument is not numeric or <br> logical: returning NA | Trying to execute function on column of wrong data type | Double check the data type of the column, and what you expect the function to do (most common when you try to perform math on categorical (factors) |

(the long version)


Thinking about Programming

Troubleshooting
error messages


Troubleshooting unexpected results

Searching for help


Thinking about
Programming




# Most of the code you write will not work 

and that's QK!



Troubleshooting error messages



Anatomy of an error message
TYPE OF ERROR

## FUNCIION not found



## FUNCHION not found



Happens because you're trying to use a function that doesn't exist
$\rightarrow$ misspelled the function name
$\rightarrow$ haven't loaded the package that contains the function

Error in gf_histogram(~cars, data = cars) could not find function "gf_histogram"
(1) run the code that imports libraries (usually one of the first cells)
(2) wait for that cell to run successfully
(3) re-run the error throwing cell


Happens because you're trying to use a function that doesn't exist
$\rightarrow$ misspelled the function name
$\rightarrow$ haven't loaded the package that contains the function

Error in $g f$ _histogram(~cars, data $=$ cars) could not find function "gf_histogram"

## OBJECT not found



## OBJECT not found


(1) run the code that creates the variable
(2) run any subsequent code that alters the variable
(3) re-run the error throwing cell



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Troubleshooting
unexpected results

# Before you run a cell of code, ask yourself "What do I expect to happen?" 



1. Catch unexpected results by always asking yourself "what do I expect to happen" before running a cell.

## 2. \#USE COMMENTS

3. Be very careful about running cells out of order
4. Break your code into small pieces
5. If you need to mutate (i.e. change) a dataframe you imported from file, consider first making changes on a dummy copy


Searching for Help

## How to ask for help on Slack:

In [30]: M \# create copy of psyc60 dataframe. use editedpsyc60 for all edits we'll make to the data \# first output will be the first 6 rows of this new copy of psyc60. editedpsyc60 <- psyc60
\#head(editedpsyc60)
\# look at what we're working with (second output will be list of values in introverted_rating column)
editedpsyc60\$introverted_rating
\# filter out missing data
editedpsyc60 <- filter(editedpsyc60, !is.na(introverted_rating))
\# take out data we don't need/aren't interested in (timestamp \& subid columns)
editedpsyc60 <- select(psyc60, -timestamp, -subid)
\# finally what are we working with? (third output will be editedpsyc60 dataframe) \#head(editedpsyc60)


## How to ask for help on Slack:

```
In [30]: M # create copy of psyc60 dataframe. use editedpsyc60 for all edits we'll make to the data
                # first output will be the first }6\mathrm{ rows of this new copy of psyc60.
        editedpsyc60 <- psyc60
        #head(editedpsyc60)
        # look at what we're working with (second output will be list of values in introverted_rating column)
        editedpsyc60$introverted_rating
    # filter out missing data
    editedpsyc60 <- filter(editedpsyc60, !is.na(introverted_rating))
    # take out data we don't need/aren't interested in (timestamp & subid columns)
    editedpsyc60 <- select(psyc60, -timestamp, -subid)
    # finally what are we working with? (third output will be editedpsyc60 dataframe)
    #head(editedpsyc60)
```



## How to make a good search on google / CRAN / rdocumentation.org / Stack overflow

- Include the name of the language you're using in your query Ex) "R read_csv()" instead of just "read csv function"
- Look on rdocumentation.org for function syntax \& output examples
- Tips: don't be intimidated by unfamiliar vocab!
- Stack overflow: make sure the tag says $r$ and not something else: javascript git python


## PSYCH 60

 FEUD
## CHEGK THE SPELLING OF THE FUNCTION NAME

## RUNTHE GELL WITHTHEIMPORT STATEMENTS

## CHECK SPELLING OFTHE FILE NAME

## CHECK THE FILE PATH

## CHECK SPELLING OF THE OBJECT NAME

## CHECK IF THE GELL CREATING THE OBJEGT IS RUN

## RESTART KERNELAND RUN GELLS IN ORDER

## POST SCREENSHOT OF MY CODE + OUTPUT TOSLACK

## CHECK FORMIX UP OF = AND ==

## CHECK SPELLING OF PACKAGE NAME

