

# EXPOSE & A Little Utility Functionality

⋮ Tags

In the last lecture, we started a container which also **exposed** a port (port 80).

I just want to clarify again, that `EXPOSE 80` in the `Dockerfile` in the end is **optional**. It **documents** that a process in the container will expose this port. But you still need to then actually expose the port with `-p` when running `docker run`. So technically, `-p` is the **only required part** when it comes to listening on a port. Still, it is a **best practice** to also add `EXPOSE` in the `Dockerfile` to document this behavior.

As an additional **quick side-note**: For **all docker commands** where an **ID** can be used, you **don't always have to copy** / write out the **full id**.

You can also **just use the first (few) character(s)** - just enough to have a unique identifier.

So instead of

```
1. docker run abcdefg
```

you could also run

```
1. docker run abc
```

or, if there's no other image ID starting with "a", you could even run just:

```
1. docker run a
```

**This applies to ALL Docker commands where IDs are needed.**