

R Script vs R Markdown

Feature	R Script (.r)	R Markdown (.Rmd)
Purpose	Write & run code	Create reproducible reports/tutorials
Contents	Code only (plus comments)	Narrative text (Markdown) + code chunks + rendered output
Output	Console/plots pane; you save plots manually	Auto-generated document (HTML/PDF/Word); code, figures, tables embedded
Execution	Run lines/sections; <code>source()</code>	“Knit” entire document; <code>rmarkdown::render()</code>
Reproducibility	Depends on your workflow	High: document records code + narrative + results together
Parameters	Manual variables	Supports parameters for templated reports
Caching	Manual	Chunk caching (<code>cache = TRUE</code>)
Inline results	Not built-in	Inline R in text: <code>r mean(x)</code>
Best for	Scripts, packages, functions, quick analyses	Homework, labs, reports, blog posts, manuscripts, teaching notes