

# Data Import :: CHEAT SHEET

R's **tidyverse** is built around **tidy data** stored in **tibbles**, which are enhanced data frames.



The front side of this sheet shows how to read text files into R with **readr**.



The reverse side shows how to create tibbles with **tibble** and to layout tidy data with **tidyr**.

## OTHER TYPES OF DATA

Try one of the following packages to import other types of files

- **haven** - SPSS, Stata, and SAS files
- **readxl** - excel files (.xls and .xlsx)
- **DBI** - databases
- **jsonlite** - json
- **xml2** - XML
- **httr** - Web APIs
- **rvest** - HTML (Web Scraping)

## Save Data

Save **x**, an R object, to **path**, a file path, as:

### Comma delimited file

**write\_csv**(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col\_names = 1:append)

### File with arbitrary delimiter

**write\_delim**(x, path, delim = ",", na = "NA", append = FALSE, col\_names = 1:append)

### CSV for excel

**write\_excel\_csv**(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col\_names = 1:append)

### String to file

**write\_file**(x, path, append = FALSE)

### String vector to file, one element per line

**write\_lines**(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE)

### Object to RDS file

**write\_rds**(x, path, compress = c("none", "gz", "bz2", "xz", ...))

### Tab delimited files

**write\_tsv**(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col\_names = 1:append)

## Read Tabular Data - These functions share the common arguments:

**read\_\***(file, col\_names = TRUE, col\_types = NULL, locale = default\_locale(), na = c("", "NA"), quoted\_na = TRUE, comment = "", trim\_ws = TRUE, skip = 0, n\_max = Inf, guess\_max = min(1000, n\_max), progress = interactive())

### Comma Delimited Files

**read\_csv**("file.csv")

To make file csv run:

**write\_file**(x = "a,b,c\n1,2,3\n4,5,NA", path = "file.csv")

### Semi-colon Delimited Files

**read\_csv2**("file2.csv")

**write\_file**(x = "a;b;c\n1;2;3\n4;5;NA", path = "file2.csv")

### Files with Any Delimiter

**read\_delim**("file.txt", delim = "|")

**write\_file**(x = "a|b|c\n1|2|3\n4|5|NA", path = "file.txt")

### Fixed Width Files

**read\_fwf**("file.fwf", col\_positions = c(1, 3, 5))

**write\_file**(x = "a b c\n1 2 3\n4 5 NA", path = "file.fwf")

### Tab Delimited Files

**read\_tsv**("file.tsv") Also **read\_table()**.

**write\_file**(x = "a\tb\tc\n1\t2\t3\n4\t5\tNA", path = "file.tsv")

## USEFUL ARGUMENTS

### Example file

```
a,b,c
1,2,3
4,5,NA
```

**write\_file**("a,b,c\n1,2,3\n4,5,NA", file.csv")  
f <- "file.csv"

1	2	3
4	5	NA

**Skip lines**  
**read\_csv(f, skip = 1)**

### No header

**read\_csv(f, col\_names = FALSE)**

A	B	C
1	2	3

**Read in a subset**  
**read\_csv(f, n\_max = 1)**

### Provide header

**read\_csv(f, col\_names = c("x", "y", "z"))**

x	y	z
A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

A	B	C
NA	2	3
4	5	NA

**Missing Values**  
**read\_csv(f, na = c("1", ""))**

## Read Non-Tabular Data

### Read a file into a single string

**read\_file**(file, locale = default\_locale())

### Read each line into its own string

**read\_lines**(file, skip = 0, n\_max = -1L, na = character(), locale = default\_locale(), progress = interactive())

### Read Apache style log files

**read\_log**(file, col\_names = FALSE, col\_types = NULL, skip = 0, n\_max = -1, progress = interactive())

### Read a file into a raw vector

**read\_file\_raw**(file)

### Read each line into a raw vector

**read\_lines\_raw**(file, skip = 0, n\_max = -1L, progress = interactive())

## Data types

readr functions guess the types of each column and convert types when appropriate (but will NOT convert strings to factors automatically).

A message shows the type of each column in the result.

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   age = col_integer(),
##   sex = col_character(),
##   earn = col_double()
## )
```

earn is a double (numeric)

sex is a character

### 1. Use problems() to diagnose problems.

**x <- read\_csv("file.csv"); problems(x)**

### 2. Use a col\_ function to guide parsing.

- **col\_guess()** - the default
- **col\_character()**
- **col\_double()**, **col\_euro\_double()**
- **col\_datetime()** (format = "") Also  
**col\_date**(format = ""), **col\_time**(format = "")
- **col\_factor**(levels, ordered = FALSE)
- **col\_integer()**
- **col\_logical()**
- **col\_number()**, **col\_numeric()**
- **col\_skip()**

**x <- read\_csv("file.csv", col\_types = cols(  
A = col\_double(),  
B = col\_logical(),  
C = col\_factor()))**

### 3. Else, read in as character vectors then parse with a parse\_ function.

- **parse\_guess()**
- **parse\_character()**
- **parse\_datetime()** Also **parse\_date()** and **parse\_time()**
- **parse\_double()**
- **parse\_factor()**
- **parse\_integer()**
- **parse\_logical()**
- **parse\_number()**

**x\$A <- parse\_number(x\$A)**

