Gatsby's plugin layer includes a wide variety of common website functionality that you can drop in to your website. There are many types of Gatsby plugins, including:

- **Integrations, or "source plugins".** These plugins pull data into Gatsby's GraphQL layer and make it available to query from your React components. Gatsby has source plugins for a wide range of headless CMSs, databases and spreadsheets, as well as the local filesystem. Here is a [guide on sourcing data](#).

- **[Progressive images](#)**

- **Dropping in analytics libraries** like [Google Analytics](#), [Google Tag Manager](#), [Segment](#), [Hotjar](#), and others.

- **Performance enhancements while using CSS libraries**, like [Sass](#), [styled-components](#) and [emotion](#). These plugins are *not required* to use these libraries but do make it easier and faster for the browser to parse styles.

- **Other website functionality**, like [SEO](#), [offline support](#), [sitemaps](#), and [RSS feeds](#).

One point of confusion people sometimes have is "when don't I need a plugin?" The answer is "most things"! As a general rule, any npm package you might use while working on another JavaScript or React application can also be used with a Gatsby application. Even when plugins are helpful, they are always optional.

Feel free to browse and search plugins at Gatsby's [Plugin Library](#) or read the documentation on [how to add a plugin](#).

Advanced use-cases include [making your own plugins](#) and either distribute them for fellow Gatsby developers to use or [install them locally](#).