R Keywords (Reserved Words)

R Keywords (Reserved Words)

In this article, you will learn about reserved words; a set of words which have special meaning.

Reserved words in R programming are a set of words that have special meaning and cannot be used as an identifier (variable name, function name etc.).

Here is a list of reserved words in the R's parser.

Reserved words in R

if	else	repeat	while	function
for	in	next	break	TRUE
FALSE	NULL	Inf	NaN	NA
NA_integer_	NA_real_	NA_complex_	NA_character_	...

This list can be viewed by typing `help(reserved)` or `?reserved` at the R command prompt as follows.

```
> ?reserved
```

Among these words, `if`, `else`, `repeat`, `while`, `function`, `for`, `in`, `next` and `break` are used for conditions, loops and user defined functions.

They form the basic building blocks of programming in R.

`TRUE` and `FALSE` are the logical constants in R.

`NULL` represents the absence of a value or an undefined value.

Inf is for "Infinity", for example when 1 is divided by 0 whereas NaN is for "Not a Number", for example when 0 is divided by 0.

NA stands for "Not Available" and is used to represent missing values.

R is a case sensitive language. Which mean that TRUE and True are not the same.

While the first one is a reserved word denoting a logical constant in R, the latter can be used a variable name.

```
> TRUE <- 1
Error in TRUE <- 1 : invalid (do_set) left-hand side to assignment
> True <- 1
> TRUE
[1] TRUE
> True
[1] 1
```