

# Chapter 1

## Some Basics

### 1.1 Printing Something to the Screen

The beauty of `print` is that it knows how to format any R value for printing, including structured values such as matrices and lists.

The `print` function has a significant limitation, however: it prints only one object at a time. Trying to print multiple items gives error message.

The `cat` function is an alternative to `print` that lets you concatenate multiple items into a continuous output.

Notice that `cat` puts a space between each item by default. You must provide a newline character (`\n`) to terminate the line.

A serious limitation, however, is that it cannot print compound data structures such as matrices and lists.