

4.1.5 Spaces in directory and file names

It is good practice to avoid putting spaces in your file and directory names. For example, I called the example project parent directory in Figure 4.1 “example-project” rather than “Example Project”. Spaces in file and directory names can sometimes create problems for computer programs trying to read the file path. The program may believe that the space indicates that the path name has ended. To make multi-word names easily readable without using spaces, adopt a consistent naming convention.

One approach is to use a convention that contrasts with the R object naming convention you are using. A contrasting convention helps make it clear if something is an R object or a file name. For example, if we adopt the underscore method for R object names used in Chapter 3 (e.g. `health_data`) we could use hyphens (`-`) to separate words in file names. For example: `example-source.R` . This is sometimes called kebab-case.