

# Introduction to type coercion

- Data types are inspected when indexing documents
  - They are validated, and *some* invalid values are rejected
  - E.g. trying to index an object for a `text` field
- Sometimes, providing the wrong data type is okay
  - Let's look at an example...

# Understanding the `_source` object

- Contains the values that were supplied at index time ("7.4")
  - Not the values that are *indexed* (7.4)
- Search queries use indexed values, not `_source`
  - BKD trees, inverted indices, etc.
- `_source` does not reflect how values are indexed
  - Keep coercion in mind if you use values from `_source`
  - In this example, it might be either a string or floating point

# A few more things...

- Supplying a floating point for an `integer` field will truncate it to an integer
- Coercion is *not* used for dynamic mapping
  - Supplying "7.4" for a new field will create a `text` mapping
- Always try to use the correct data type
  - Especially the first time you index a field
- Disabling coercion is a matter of preference
  - It is enabled by default