Packages in R

R has a number of functions already built in. These are part of "base R". For much of what we do we need to load particular packages to let us use additional functions. We do this by:

```
> install.packages("packagename")
```

```
> library(packagename)
```

Every time you start R afresh, you need to load the packages you will use by using the `library` function. If you see notation like the following, it means we're using a function (e.g., `summarise`) from within a package (e.g., `dplyr`)

```
dplyr::summarise
```

You don't need to re-invent the wheel…

- For any problem you want to solve, chances are others have had the same problem, solved it and have created an R package to do exactly what you want…

- One of the many great things about R is that you can add freely available packages to your library.

- ~11,000 R packages currently available

- The sites r-bloggers.com and rweekly.org are good places to find out about new packages.