

# Value: What does this function return to you? What is the output?



## Value

A data frame ([data.frame](#)) containing a representation of the data in the file.

Empty input is an error unless `col.names` is specified, when a 0-row data frame is returned: similarly giving just a header line if `header = TRUE` results in a 0-row data frame. Note that in either case the columns will be logical unless `colClasses` was supplied.

Character strings in the result (including factor levels) will have a declared encoding if `encoding` is "latin1" or "UTF-8".

# Note: Special cases or behaviors



## Note

The columns referred to in `as.is` and `colClasses` include the column of row names (if any).

There are two approaches for reading input that is not in the local encoding. If the input is known to be UTF-8 or Latin1, use the `encoding` argument to declare that. If the input is in some other encoding, then it may be translated on input. The `fileEncoding` argument achieves this by setting up a connection to do the re-encoding into the current locale. Note that on Windows or other systems not running in a UTF-8 locale, this may not be possible.


## References

Chambers, J. M. (1992) *Data for models*. Chapter 3 of *Statistical Models in S* eds J. M. Chambers and T. J. Hastie, Wadsworth & Brooks/Cole.

## See Also

The 'R Data Import/Export' manual.

[scan](#), [type.convert](#), [read.fwf](#) for reading fixed width formatted input; [write.table](#); [data.frame](#).



# See Also: Related functions