**R Miscellaneous Tips**

* Remember that a working directory is a location on your computer. Every time you open R, you should set your working directory for *that* R session. That directory is 1) where R will save the file you are currently writing (.R or .rmd), 2) where it will look for datasets to read in, and 3) where it will save other stuff, such as graphs, that you make during that R session.
* When you download a new dataset, an R script, or an RMarkdown file, make sure to MOVE those files into your working directory. Whatever folder the .R or .rmd is in should be your working directory. So if you download a file and do not move it, then your working directory should be your “Downloads” folder (but this is not recommended as good organizational practice. Instead, move it to another folder and then that folder should be your working directory).
* If Mac’s “Numbers” application is your default application for datasets, or you notice the datasets downloading with the “.numbers” extension, change this to Excel.
  + To change the default application that your computer uses to open spreadsheets, right click the file > Open With… > Other. Choose Microsoft Excel and then check the box “Always Open With.”
* When you close R, you can ignore the pop-up warning about saving the RData workspace. Almost always the answer to this should be “Don't Save.” You should only save the .R or .rmd file. This is all you need.
* If R is telling you there is an error in your code, there is one. Own this.

**Why is your code not working?**

**Common Mistakes in R**

* You spelled something wrong, like a variable name, the name of the dataframe, or the name of a function/package. Remember R is case sensitive. *I know, I know…* You think you spelled everything right… You checked three times. Check again!
* You are trying to do something with a variable, but did not use the $ operator. (Remember: data$variable)
  + For example, the error might say: "Error in eval” or “object not found.” You referenced an object that does not exist.
* You forgot a closing parenthesis. )
  + This can either result in an error *or* in R thinking your code isn’t finished yet. This can result in your console showing a + instead of the normal >. Hit the esc key to cancel this line, then find the problem with your previous line (count parentheses and check your quotation marks) and fix it.
* You have *too* many parentheses. ))
  + The error says: “unexpected ‘)’ in…”
* The error says: “unexpected symbol in..” R doesn’t recognize what you wrote. You probably forgot some punctuation like a comma or end-quotes. For example, ylim(0 10) instead of ylim(0,10)
* The error says: “could not find function.” You forgot to load the required package that you need for that function or you misspelled the function name.
* The error says: “cannot open the connection” or “cannot find..” and is not loading the dataset. Did you set your working directory properly? Are you sure the file is in that directory? Are you really *really* sure?