Q

R Code — Asking better coding questions

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Pointers

- R is free software
- Constructed and maintained by volunteers
- The R-spirit is kept alive by the community

Remember: We (They) have limited time



Golden Rule

 The Golden Rule: Imagine You're Trying To Answer The Question

(And yes, this does smack somewhat of Matthew 7:12.)



Why do you ask a question ::

- Solve an existing problem
- Debug an error
- •



Before you ask

- 1. Search, and research -> keep track of what you find.
 - 1. https://stackoverflow.com/tags/r/info
 - 2. https://rseek.org/
 - 3. https://www.r-project.org/help.html
 - 4. ? Many more
 - 5. https://epirhandbook.com/en/index.html
- 2. Write a title that summarizes the specific problem
 - Remember you are talking to a busy colleague
 - Spelling, grammar and punctuation are important! (Impression).



Kindly assist, I get this error

'Not all of the characters in D:/Academia/R-Programming/Notes_2/Vectors_Exercise_1.R could be encoded using ASCII. To save using a different encoding, choose "File | Save with Encoding..." from the main menu.'

'Not all of the characters in D:/Academia/R-Programming/Notes_2/Vectors_Exercise_1.R could be encoded using ISO8859-1. To save using a different encoding, choose "File | Save with Encoding..." from the main menu.'

What encoding should be used? Or what is the issue?



Dennis Wamalabe Mukhebi 1:25 PM

assign("y",1,3,5,2,4,15,13,21)

Error in assign("y", 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 15, 13, 21):

unused arguments (15, 13, 21)



3 replies Last reply today at 3:13 PM



Dennis Wamalabe Mukhebi 3:12 PM

y[3,4,8]

Error in y[3, 4, 8]: incorrect number of dimensions

>

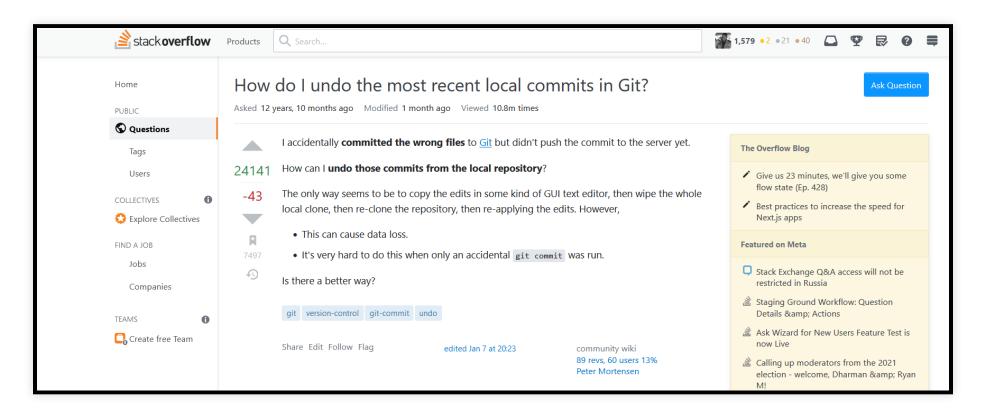


2 replies Last reply today at 4:10 PM



- Important to highlight what language and platform you're using.

The basics should usually be communicated through tags





```
x <- "3"
x*2

## Error in x * 2: non-numeric argument to binary operator

Examples:
   Bad: multiplication error
   Good: Why does x*2 evaluation in R return an error when x is set to "2'</pre>
```

• A question such as "Why doesn't this work?" makes absolutely no sense without the rest of the question.



- 3. Introduce the problem before you post any code (Well, what did you expect it to do? What are you trying to accomplish? What have you already tried?)
 - Expand on the summary put on the title
 - Explain the path to the problem
 - Explain the difficulties

```
I am trying to multiply an object in R but I get an evaluation error. I first define an object `x="3"` then multiply that by 2 as shown below. I tried ...
```



- 4. Help others reproduce the problem (Sample code and data)
- Include some code if the problem is code related.
 - NB: don't just copy in your entire script!
 - Include just enough code to allow error reproducibility
- Point out differences between your situation and other common ones
- DO NOT post images of code, data, error messages, etc.



I am trying to multiply an object in R but I get an evaluation error. I first define an object `x="3"` then multiply that by 2 as shown below. I tried ...

Below is the code I was working with.

```
x <- "3"
x*2
```

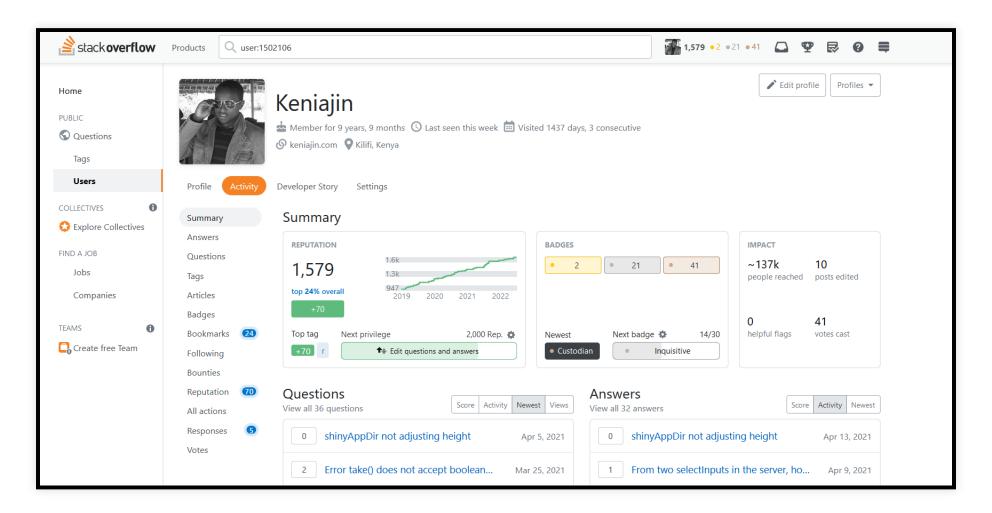
Error in x * 2: non-numeric argument to binary operator

- 5. Proof-read before posting!
- 6. Look for help asking for help
- 7. Post the answer if you get it before someone answers.



Making a good impression

• Register as a user and give yourself a meaningful name.





- Keep an eye on your question.
- Don't add your own answer unless it really is an answer.
- There's no need to include greetings and sign-offs
 - such as "Hi everyone!" and "Thanks hope to get an answer soon" in the question.
- Above all, be polite. On community websites that:
 Remember no-one is getting paid to answer your question.

