

# Renaming

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It's often the case we want to rename columns in our dataframe. This is achieved very easily. Using an example of a dataset on bison mass,

```
# load libraries
library(lterdatasampler)
library(tidyverse)

bison <- lterdatasampler::knz_bison
head(bison)

## # A tibble: 6 x 8
##   data_code rec_year rec_month rec_day animal_code animal_sex animal_w~1 anima~2
##   <chr>      <dbl>    <dbl>   <dbl> <chr>      <chr>      <dbl>   <dbl>
## 1 CBH01      1994      11      8 813      F          890     1981
## 2 CBH01      1994      11      8 834      F          1074    1983
## 3 CBH01      1994      11      8 B-301    F          1060    1983
## 4 CBH01      1994      11      8 B-402    F          989     1984
## 5 CBH01      1994      11      8 B-403    F          1062    1984
## 6 CBH01      1994      11      8 B-502    F          978     1985
## # ... with abbreviated variable names 1: animal_weight, 2: animal_yob
```

To see what the existing names are, we can call the `names()` function:

```
names(bison)

## [1] "data_code"      "rec_year"      "rec_month"     "rec_day"
## [5] "animal_code"    "animal_sex"    "animal_weight" "animal_yob"
```

## Rename A Single Column

The TidyR method of renaming is through the `rename()` function from the `dplyr` package. Let's remove the prefix "animal" from "animal\_code". In this syntax, the new name comes first, the old name second.

```
bison = bison %>%
  dplyr::rename(code = animal_code)
```

We double check with:

```
names(bison)

## [1] "data_code"      "rec_year"      "rec_month"     "rec_day"
## [5] "code"           "animal_sex"    "animal_weight" "animal_yob"
```

And we see it worked.

## Rename Multiple Columns

We can rename as many columns as we want.

```
bison = bison %>%  
  dplyr::rename(  
    sex = animal_sex,  
    weight = animal_weight,  
    yob = animal_yob  
  )  
names(bison)
```

```
## [1] "data_code" "rec_year" "rec_month" "rec_day" "code" "sex"  
## [7] "weight" "yob"
```