

Common Coding Mistakes: R

1. **Capitalized (or not) variable names** - remember that R is case sensitive. Therefore, var1, Var1, VAR1 are all thought to be different/unique variables.
2. **Data file currently open on computer and can't import into R** - Make sure any files you are trying to import into R are closed first.
3. **Direction of slashes are incorrect** - work around: use double backslash (\\) wherever a single slash may occur, the computer will know to substitute a single backslash (\) or single forward slash (/) based on the operating system.

Example: Double backslashes are used wherever a single slash is to occur.

```
grades<-read.table("C:\\Users\\BS730\\Downloads\\studentgrades.csv", header=TRUE, sep=",")
```

4. **Missing a closing parenthesis** - make sure the number of open parentheses "(" matches the number of closed parentheses ")".
5. **Dataset not specified** - work around: use attach(dfname) to avoid typing dfname\$varname each time you need to reference a variable from the dataset, dfname.

Please note:

- A. You can't have more than one dataset attached at a time!
 - B. Do not attach the same dataset multiple times!
6. If you get an error that says, **object(XX) not found**, you have either:
 1. Referred to a variable that is not attached (if you referred to just the variable name, i.e. varname), or
 2. Misspelled the variable name and/or dataset name (if you referred to the variable name and dataset name, i.e. dfname\$varname)
 7. If you get an error that says, **could not find the function "XXX"**, then you have either:
 1. Misspelled the name of the function, or
 2. Did not install/load the package required for the function
 8. **Package not loaded** - certain functions may only be available once you load the package. Hint: always list all the packages you want to use at the beginning of your R program.
 9. **Missing values not handled correctly** - for example, when using:
mean(dfname\$varname) **make sure to include** na.rm=TRUE.
BAD: mean(dfname\$varname) **GOOD:** mean(dfname\$varname, na.rm=TRUE)