

Dictionary of symbols

The following is a quick dictionary of some of the symbols and jargon you may see while reading reference material in R

Symbol	Meaning in English	Shortcut
<-	Assignment Operator. The value on the right will be assigned the value on the left going forward, Code x <- 32 English : Assign the number 32 to the character x . Hereafter if i say x read this as 32. Another common use of the <- operator is to assign the names of dataframes (similar to tables) Code df1 <- read.csv(xyz.csv) English : open the file xyz.csv . assign it to the label df1. If i say df1 i am referring to this file.	Alt +
%>%	Pipe Operator it can be read as “And then” in plain english df1 <- read.csv(“xyz.csv”) %>% filter(state == “TN”) English : open the file xyz.csv . assign it the name df1 and then only show me the rows where state is TN.	Ctrl Shift M
#	Comment Starting a line with a comment tells R “This is not code it is a comment , do not run this line”. Using comments is a very good practice to lay out what exactly you are doing at each step. You can also use comments to be headings and create sections in your code. This keeps things easy to read.	#
\$	The \$ symbol is sometimes used to refer to a column name. Suppose a dataframe (table) called “df1” has 4 columns. id_number . state, name, age. These 4 columns will be referred to in R as df1\$id_number df1\$state df1\$name df1\$age Any further action that needs to be taken on these columns will refer to these columns as such.	

`"..."` `"..."`

Putting text in quotes tells R : "Treat this as text / string / character". This refers to the data type.

So saying

```
x <- 12
```

12 stored as an integer. Mathematical functions will be possible

```
x <- "12"
```

12 stored as a character / string. Mathematical functions will not be possible,

"..." is used at all places where a new name is introduced to R. Hence when we open a file for the first time we use

```
read.csv("xyz.csv")
```

or

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

`(...)` `(.)` is used very commonly following a function.

Such as

```
read.csv() # to open files
```

```
library() # to load libraries
```

the file to be read or the package to be loaded goes into the `()`. This value that is entered into the `(.)` is often referred to as an "argument".
