

# Common data-cleaning pitfalls

In this reading, you will learn the importance of data cleaning and how to identify common mistakes. Some of the errors you might come across while cleaning your data could include:



Not checking for spelling errors



Forgetting to document errors



Not checking for misfielded values



Overlooking missing values



Looking at a subset of data and not the whole picture



Losing track of the business objectives



Not fixing the source of the error



Not analyzing the system prior to data cleaning



Not backing up your data prior to data cleansing



Not accounting for data cleaning in your deadlines/process

## Common mistakes to avoid

- Not checking for spelling errors:** Misspellings can be as simple as typing or input errors. Most of the time the wrong spelling or common grammatical errors can be detected, but it gets harder with things like names or addresses. For example, if you are working with a spreadsheet table of customer data, you might come across a customer named “John” whose name has been input