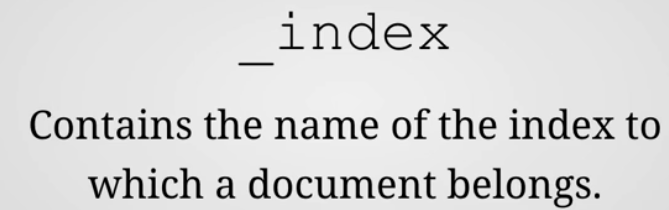
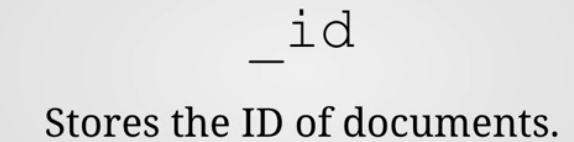
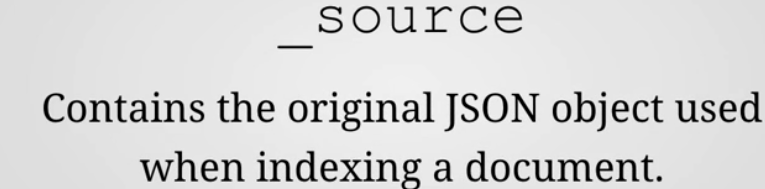
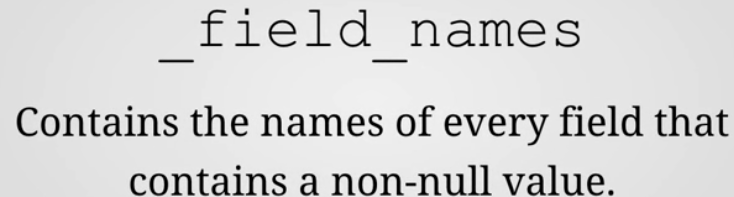
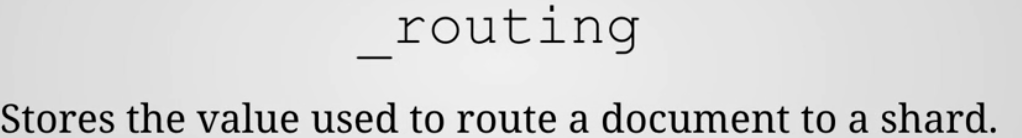
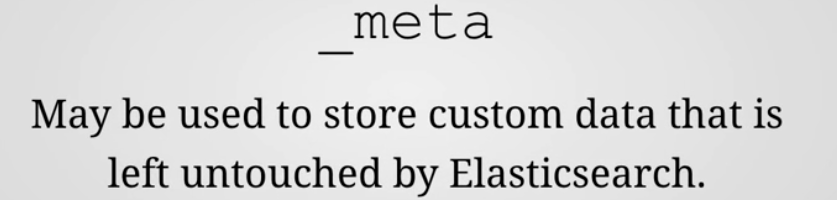
1. 
2. Every document that is stored within an Elasticsearch cluster, has some meta-data associated with them, apart from the data fields that we specify when indexing documents.
3. These fields are called meta-fields, and we are going to take a look at some of them now.
4. There are ten of them as of today, but I will not mention all of them, because they are not equally important.
5. Often times you will not need to use the meta-fields directly, but it is still a good thing to know that they exist in case you need to use them sometime.
6. Anyways, let’s go through the most important meta-fields.
   1. **\_index:**   
      
      1. This field is added to documents automatically and is used by Elasticsearch internally.
      2. It simply contains the name of the index to which the document belongs.
      3. This is used internally when querying documents within an index, but may also be used explicitly within search queries if searching for document within multiple indices.
   2. **\_id:**
      1. \_id can be queried within certain queries.  
         Usually we don’t need to query the field directly, but it’s used when looking up documents based on their Ids.
   3. \_source:  
      
      1. This field is not indexed, and therefore you can’t search it but you can retrieve it.
   4. \_field\_names:  
      
      1. This is used with a query named “exists” for instance, which matches documents that contain a non-null value for a given field.
   5. \_routing:  
      
      1. If we’re using custom routing to route documents to shards based on a specified value, then this value is stored within the “\_routing” meta-field.
   6. \_version:  
      
      1. Elasticsearch uses versioning of documents internally with a meta field named “\_version”.
      2. If you retrieve a document by ID, this meta-field will be part of the result.
      3. The value is simply an integer which starts at on and is incremented every time we change a document.
      4. You will typically not have to actively deal with this, but it is good to know that it is there.
   7. \_meta:  
      
      1. It’s therefore a place where you can store whatever application specific data that you might have.