

# Pipeline Terms

## Step

A single task; fundamentally steps tell Jenkins *what* to do. For example, to execute the shell command `make` use the `sh` step: `sh 'make'`. When a plugin extends the Pipeline DSL, that typically means the plugin has implemented a new *step*.

## Node

Most *work* a Pipeline performs is done in the context of one or more declared `node` steps. Confining the work inside of a node step does two things:

1. Schedules the steps contained within the block to run by adding an item to the Jenkins queue. As soon as an executor is free on a node, the steps will run.
2. Creates a workspace (a directory specific to that particular Pipeline) where work can be done on files checked out from source control.

### CAUTION

Depending on your Jenkins configuration, some workspaces may not get automatically cleaned up after a period of inactivity. See tickets and discussion linked from [JENKINS-2111](#) for more information.

## Stage

`stage` is a step for defining a conceptually distinct subset of the entire Pipeline, for example: "Build", "Test", and "Deploy", which is used by many plugins to visualize or present Jenkins Pipeline status/progress. [6: [Blue Ocean](#), [Pipeline Stage View plugin](#)]

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