Functions, continued

Adding another argument

Let's say we plan to be using our new_mean() function to calculate proportions (i.e., the mean of a binary variable). Sometimes we'll want to report them as as percentage by multiplying the proportion by 100.

Let's name our new function prop(). We'll use the same structure as we did with new_mean().

```
1 prop <- function(x) {
2    n <- length(x)
3    mean_val <- sum(x) / n</pre>
```

Testing the code

Now we'll want to test on a vector of 1's and 0's.

```
1 \times < -c(0, 1, 1)
```

To calculate the proportion and turn it into a percentage, we'll just multiply the mean by 100.

```
1 multiplier <- 100
2 multiplier * sum(x) / length</pre>
```

[1] 66.66667

Testing the code

We want to give users the option to choose between a proportion and a percentage. So we'll add an argument multiplier. When we want to just return the proportion, we can just set multiplier to be 1.

```
1 multiplier <- 1
         2 multiplier * sum(x) / length
11 0.6666667
         1 multiplier <- 100
         2 multiplier * sum(x) / length
```

Adding another argument

If we add multiplier as an argument, we can refer to it in the function body.

```
1 prop <- function(x, multipli
2    n <- length(x)
3    mean_val <- multiplier * s
4    return(mean_val)
5 }</pre>
```

Adding another argument

Now we can test:

```
1 prop(x = c(1, 0, 1, 0), multiplier = 1)

[1] 0.5

1 prop(x = c(1, 0, 1, 0), multiplier = 100)

[1] 50
```

Making a default argument

Since we don't want users to have to specify multiplier = 1 every time they just want a proportion, we can set it as a default.

```
1 prop <- function(x, multiplier = 1) {
2    n <- length(x)
3    mean_val <- multiplier * sum(x) / n
4    return(mean_val)
5 }</pre>
```

Now we only need to specify that argument if we want a percentage.

```
1 \text{ prop}(x = c(0, 1, 1, 1))
1 \text{ prop}(x = c(0, 1, 1, 1), \text{ multiplier} = 100)
```

Caveats

- This is obviously not the best way to write this function!
- For example, it will still work if x = c(123, 593, -192).... but it certainly won't give you a proportion or a percentage!
- We could also put multiplier = any number, and we'll just be multiplying the answer by that number this is essentially meaningless.
- We also haven't done any checking to see whether the user is even entering numbers! We could put in better error messages so users don't just get an R default error message if they do something wrong.

```
1 prop(x = c("blah", "blah", "blah"))
```