Item linking errors

# Item linking errors#

In n8n you can reference data from any previous node. This doesn't have to be the node just before: it can be any previous node in the chain. When referencing nodes further back, you use the expression syntax $(node\_name).item.

$(node\_name).item

Diagram of threads for different items. Due to the item linking, you can get the actor for each movie using $('Get famous movie actors').item.

$('Get famous movie actors').item

Since the previous node can have multiple items in it, n8n needs to know which one to use. When using .item, n8n figures this out for you behind the scenes. Refer to Item linking concepts for detailed information on how this works.

.item

.item fails if information is missing. To figure out which item to use, n8n maintains a thread back through the workflow's nodes for each item. For a given item, this thread tells n8n which items in previous nodes generated it. To find the matching item in a given previous node, n8n follows this thread back until it reaches the node in question.

.item

When using .item, n8n displays an error when:

.item

• The thread is broken

• The thread points to more than one item in the previous node (as it's unclear which one to use)

To solve these errors, you can either avoid using .item, or fix the root cause.

.item

You can avoid .item by using .first(), .last() or .all()[index] instead. They require you to know the position of the item that you’re targeting within the target node's output items. Refer to Built in methods and variables | Output of other nodes for more detail on these methods.

.item

.first()

.last()

.all()[index]

The fix for the root cause depends on the exact error.

### Fix for 'Info for expressions missing from previous node'#

If you see this error message:

ERROR: Info for expression missing from previous node

There's a node in the chain that doesn't return pairing information. The solution here depends on the type of the previous node:

• Code nodes: make sure you return which input items the node used to produce each output item. Refer to Item linking in the code node for more information.

• Custom or community nodes: the node creator needs to update the node to return which input items it uses to produce each output item. Refer to Item linking for node creators for more information.

### Fix for 'Multiple matching items for expression'#

This is the error message:

ERROR: Multiple matching items for expression

Sometimes n8n uses multiple items to create a single item. Examples include the Summarize, Aggregate, and Merge nodes. These nodes can combine information from multiple items.

When you use .item and there are multiple possible matches, n8n doesn't know which one to use. To solve this you can either:

.item

• Use .first(), .last() or .all()[index] instead. Refer to Built in methods and variables | Output of other nodes for more detail on these methods.

.first()

.last()

.all()[index]

• Reference a different node that contains the same information, but doesn't have multiple matching items.