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Vectors and lists in R

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In programming, a **data structure** is a format for organizing and storing data. Data structures are important to understand because you will work with them frequently when you use R for data analysis. The most common data structures in the R programming language include:

- Vectors
- Data frames
- Matrices
- Arrays

Think of a data structure like a house that contains your data.

This reading will focus on vectors. Later on, you'll learn more about data frames, matrices, and arrays.

There are two types of vectors: **atomic vectors** and **lists**. Coming up, you'll learn about the basic properties of atomic vectors and lists, and how to use R code to create them.

Atomic vectors

First, we will go through the different types of atomic vectors. Then, you will learn how to use R code to