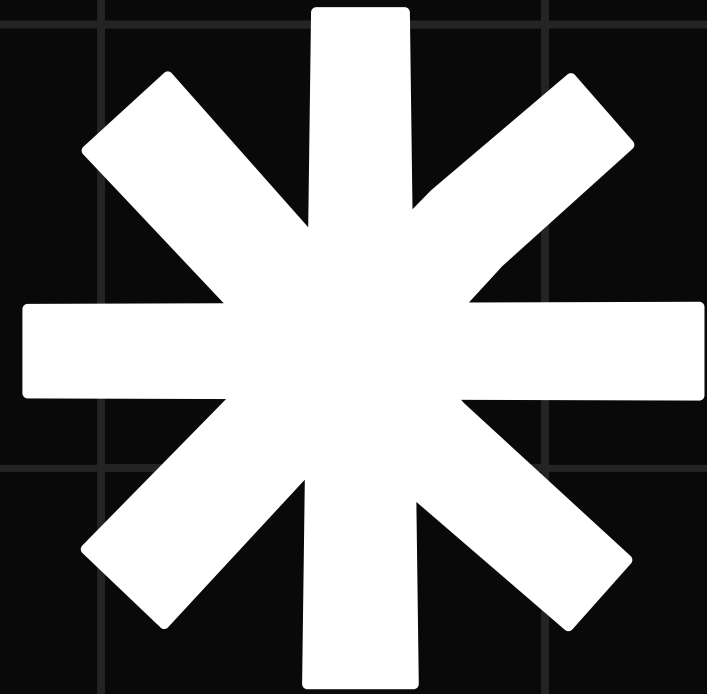


How..



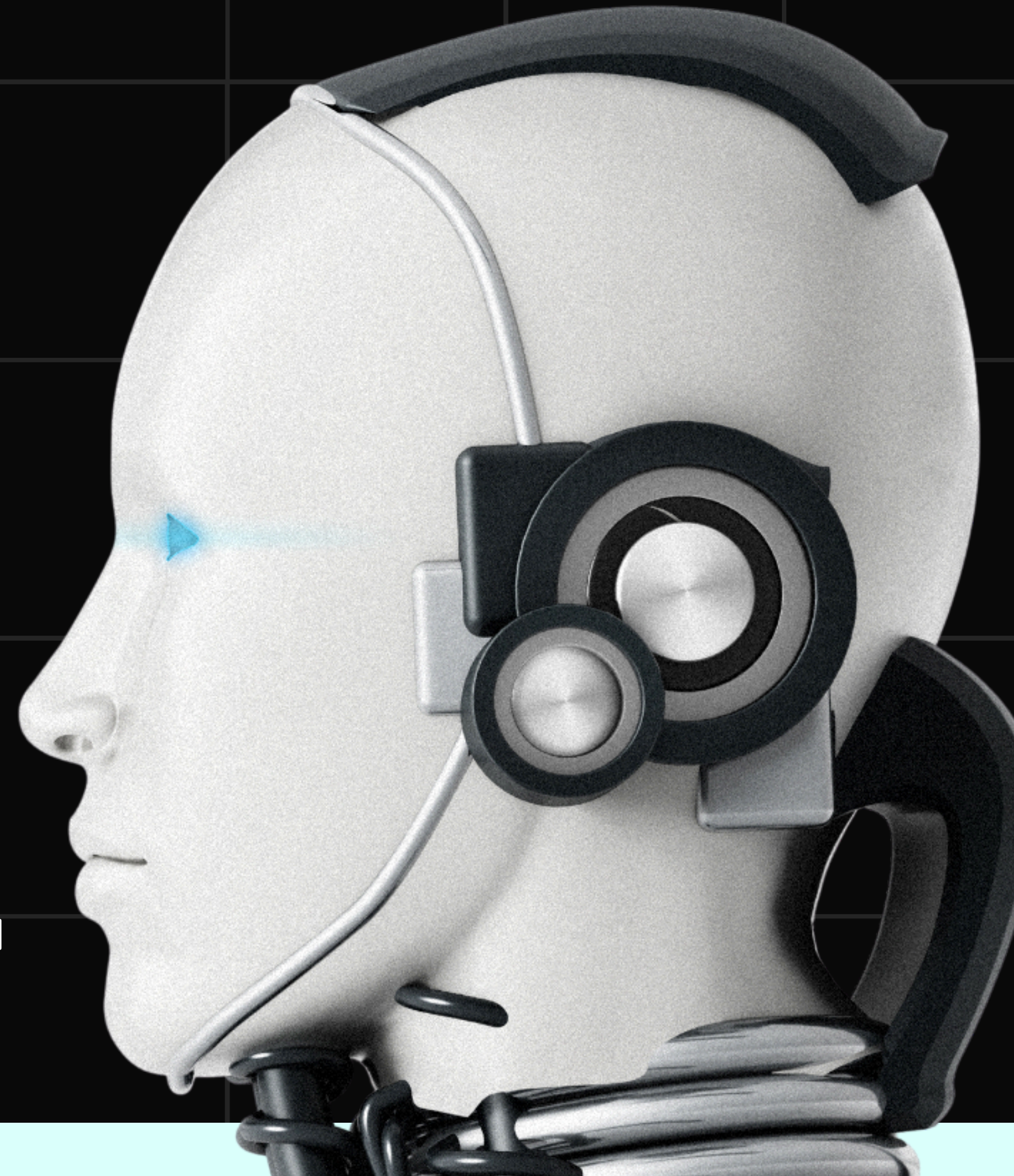
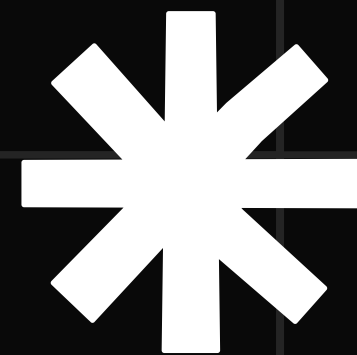
Data flows in n8n

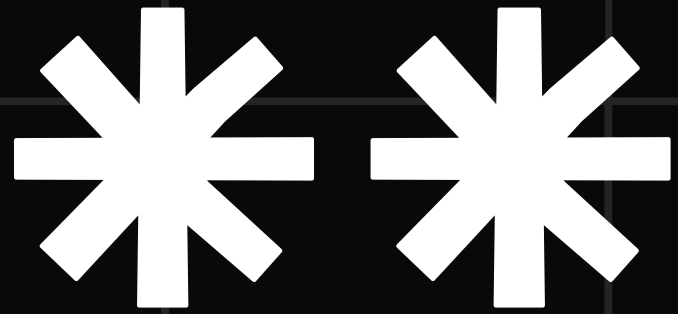
Presented by Simeon



N8N needs to ensure that all its nodes speak the same language. N8N is a tool that connects different nodes, and there is a data flow between each node. All nodes must speak the same language. This is where the concept of an **Array of Objects** comes in — and where the famous concept of **Items** is introduced.

N8N introduces the concept of **Extract, Transform, and Load** (ETL)—this is the common language that all its nodes speak. In this context, an item refers to a single unit of data that flows through the nodes, and items are simply collections of these data units.





Items

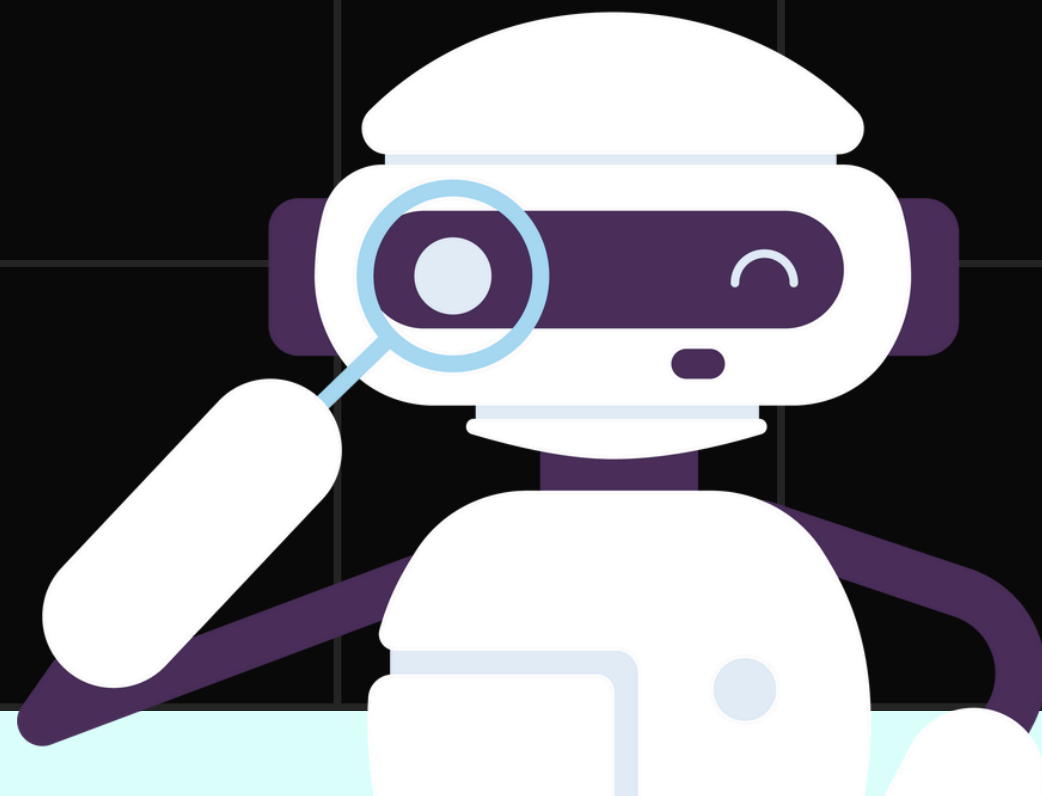
An Item is a single unit of data that flows through the n8n system.

Each Item is typically represented as an object containing a set of fields (properties or attributes). These fields hold the actual data that each node processes.

Items

Items is simply the plural form of Item. It refers to a collection of data units, usually handled as an Array of Objects.

Items



When to use multiple elements and when to use just one

Scenario	Keep Items	Aggregate
Insert into DB or Sheets	✓	✗
Call external APIs per item	✓	✗
Provide full context to AI Agent	✗	✓
Calculate statistics	✗	✓
Perform batch requests (API supports bulk)	✗	✓
Step-by-step debugging	✓	✗