# Power BI Data Import & Connection Q&A

## List three data sources Power BI can connect to.

• Excel workbooks  
• SQL Server databases  
• Web data (via URL)

## What is the first step to import data into Power BI Desktop?

Click Home → Get Data, then choose your data source.

## How do you refresh imported data in Power BI?

In Power BI Desktop: Home → Refresh.  
In Power BI Service: set up scheduled refresh or click Refresh Now.

## What file formats can Power BI import directly? (Name two.)

• .xlsx (Excel)  
• .csv (Comma-separated values)

## What does the 'Navigator' window show after selecting a data source?

It lists available tables, sheets, or queries from the chosen source, allowing preview and selection.

## Import Sales\_Data.csv and load only the 'Product' and 'Price' columns.

M-code:  
let  
 Source = Csv.Document(File.Contents("C:\Data\Sales\_Data.csv"), [Delimiter=",", Columns=4, Encoding=65001, QuoteStyle=QuoteStyle.None]),  
 PromotedHeaders = Table.PromoteHeaders(Source, [PromoteAllScalars=true]),  
 SelectedColumns = Table.SelectColumns(PromotedHeaders, {"Product", "Price"})  
in  
 SelectedColumns

## How would you change OrderDate to a date format during import?

M-code:  
Table.TransformColumnTypes(PreviousStep, {{"OrderDate", type date}})  
Or in Power Query: Transform → Data Type → Date

## What is the difference between 'Load' and 'Transform Data' in the import dialog?

• Load: Directly imports data as-is into the model.  
• Transform Data: Opens Power Query Editor to clean/shape data before loading.

## Why might you see an error when connecting to a SQL database? (Name one reason.)

• Incorrect server or database name  
• Invalid credentials  
• Firewall blocking connection

## How do you replace a data source after importing it?

Go to Home → Data source settings, select the source, click Change Source, update path/connection.

## Write the M-code to import only rows where Quantity > 1.

M-code:  
let  
 Source = Csv.Document(File.Contents("C:\Data\Sales\_Data.csv"), [Delimiter=",", Encoding=65001, QuoteStyle=QuoteStyle.None]),  
 PromotedHeaders = Table.PromoteHeaders(Source, [PromoteAllScalars=true]),  
 ChangedType = Table.TransformColumnTypes(PromotedHeaders, {{"Quantity", Int64.Type}}),  
 FilteredRows = Table.SelectRows(ChangedType, each [Quantity] > 1)  
in  
 FilteredRows

## How would you change the data source if Sales\_Data.csv changed?

Use Data source settings → Change Source to point to the new file path or name.

## Troubleshoot: Your CSV import fails due to a 'mixed data type' error—how do you fix it?

• Change column type to Text before transformations.  
• Use Detect Data Type or manually set types in Power Query.

## Connect to a live SQL database with parameters (e.g., filter by year).

M-code:  
let  
 YearParam = 2023,  
 Source = Sql.Database("ServerName", "DatabaseName", [Query="SELECT \* FROM Sales WHERE YEAR(OrderDate) = " & Number.ToText(YearParam)])  
in  
 Source

## How would you automate data imports using Power BI and Power Automate?

Use Power Automate to trigger dataset refresh in Power BI after file update (e.g., new CSV in OneDrive/SharePoint). Flow can run on schedule or on file change event.