

Git Guide

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GOAL

To demonstrate key Git workflows for collaboration and version control, including branching, committing, resolving conflicts, tagging, and undoing commits — all documented in a reproducible Quarto project.

1 Create and Clone a Repo

On GitHub

1. Create a new repository: **ETC5513-assignment2-git-guide**
2. Check “Add a README file”

In Rstudio

1. Go to **File → New Project → Version Control → Git**
2. Paste your repository URL (SSH or HTTPS)
3. Choose a location and click **Create Project**

You are now working inside a Git-tracked RStudio project.

2 Add, Commit and Push a File

1. Create a new qmd file: Go to **File** → **New File** → **Quarto Document**
2. Save it as `example.qmd` in the project folder

Add the following content to the qmd file:

```
### Hello  
I have a dog, we are best friends
```

Then, save it and click the Render button.

See Figure Figure 1 for the rendered HTML output.



Figure 1: Rendering the example.qmd file into HTML in RStudio.

3. Open your terminal: Add, commit and push the folder to GitHub:

```
git add example.qmd  
git commit -m "Add example Quarto file"  
git push origin main
```

After this, go to GitHub and check — you should now see your project files online.

See Figure Figure 2 for confirmation that the project files were successfully uploaded to GitHub.

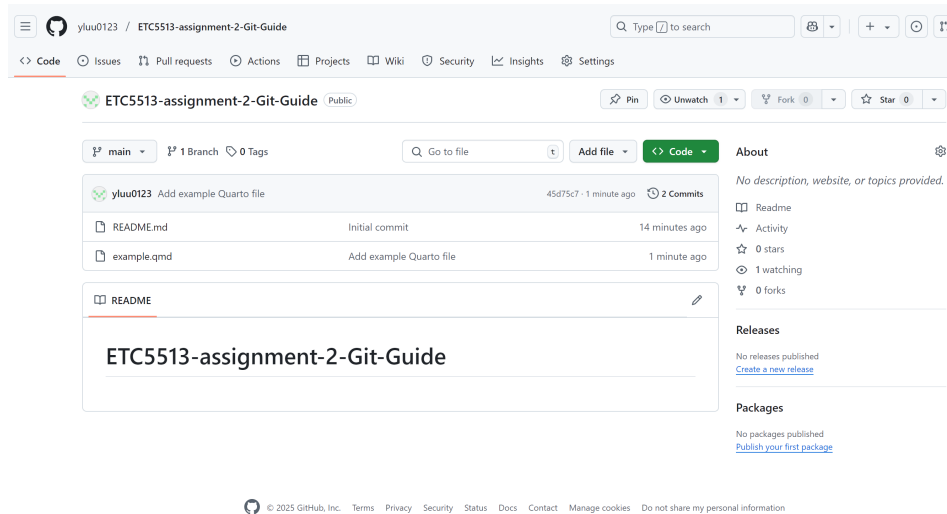


Figure 2: the project successfully pushed to GitHub.

3 Create and Work on a New Branch

Now that the project has been pushed to GitHub, let's start a new feature by creating a separate branch. This is useful when you want to experiment or work on something without affecting the `main` branch.

1. Create a new branch and switch to it

In the **Terminal** tab of RStudio, make sure you're inside your project directory.

Check where you are using:

```
pwd
```

Create and switch to a new branch called `testbranch`:

```
git branch testbranch
git switch testbranch
```

You are now working on a new branch `testbranch`. This lets you make changes without affecting the `main` branch.

2. Make a Change to example.qmd

In RStudio, open `example.qmd` and add this line:

```
This is a test line added from testbranch.
```

Then save the file.

3. Stage and Commit the Change

Back in the Terminal:

Check your file status:

```
git status
```

Then stage and commit the file:

```
git add example.qmd
git commit -m "Edit example.qmd in testbranch"
```

Your change is now saved locally on `testbranch`.

4. Add a Folder and Data File

1. Create the `data/` folder
2. Manually drag and drop your dataset file into the `data/` folder.

Now your folder structure should look like:

```
data/
  life-expectancy-of-women-vs-life-expectancy-of-men.csv
```

3. Stage and commit the changes

Now return to the Terminal and run the following commands:

```
git add data/
git commit -m "Add data folder with life expectancy dataset"
```

Your new commit has been created, containing the `data/` folder and your dataset.

4 Amend the Previous Commit to Include the data/ Folder

Sometimes we realize after a commit that we forgot to include an important folder — like `data/`. Instead of making a new commit, we can modify the previous one using the `--amend` option.

1. Stage the missing folder

First, stage the `data/` folder that was left out of the last commit:

```
git add data/
```

This tells Git we now want to include the folder in the next commit.

2. Amend the previous commit

```
git commit --amend
```

This opens a message editor. Edit the commit message if needed, then save and exit.

3. Push the Amended Commit to GitHub

Now that you have amended your last commit, let's push it to the remote repository on GitHub:

```
git push -u origin testbranch
```

This pushes the updated commit to GitHub under the `testbranch` branch.

See Figure Figure 3 for the pushed testbranch on GitHub.

5 Switch Back to Main and Create a Conflict

Now that we've made changes in `testbranch`, we'll switch back to the `main` branch and edit the same file (`example.qmd`) in a different way. This will create a **merge conflict** later when we try to combine both branches.

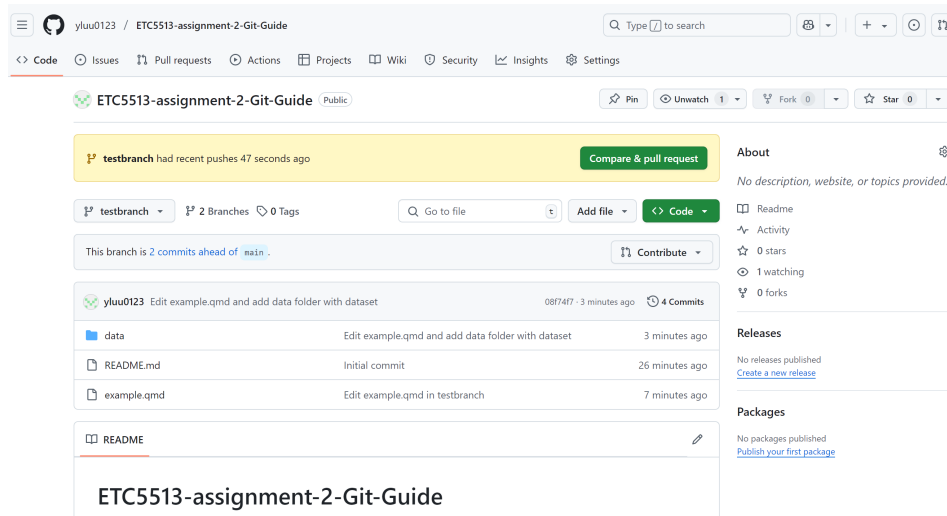


Figure 3: The project was successfully pushed to the remote testbranch on GitHub, including the example.qmd file and data folder.

1. Switch back to main

```
git switch main
```

2. Make a different change to example.qmd

Open example.qmd and **change the same line** that you previously edited in testbranch, but this time write something different.

```
This is a conflicting line added on main.
```

Save the file.

3. Stage and commit the change

```
git add example.qmd
git commit -m "Edit example.qmd on main to create conflict"
```

4. Push the change to GitHub

```
git push origin main
```

Now both `main` and `testbranch` have conflicting changes in the same file.

See Figure Figure 4 for the conflicting changes made on different branches.

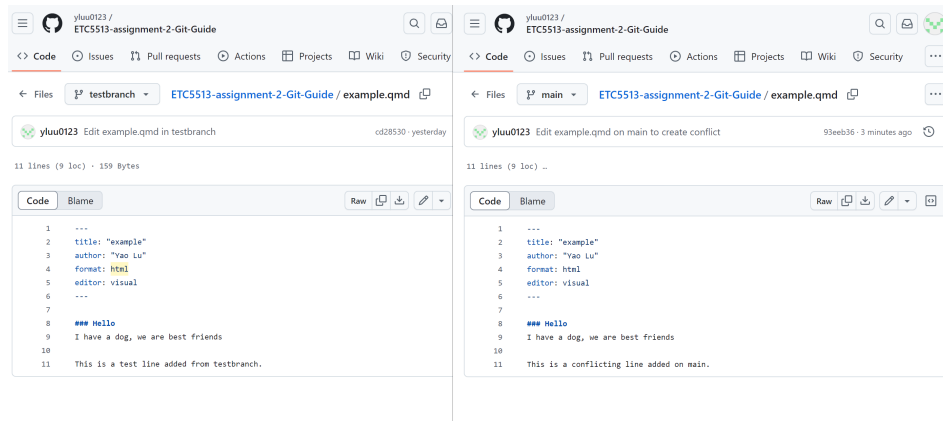


Figure 4: `example.qmd` was edited differently on ‘main’ and ‘testbranch’, which will cause a merge conflict when the branches are merged.

6 Merge testbranch into main and resolve conflict

Step 1: Merge Branches

In the **Terminal**, switch to `main` if you’re not already on it, Then merge the changes from `testbranch`:

```
git merge testbranch
```

You will likely see a message like this:

```
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in example.qmd
Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.
```

This means Git could not automatically merge the two versions because both branches edited the same part of the file.

Step 2: Resolve the Conflict

Open `example.qmd` in RStudio. You'll see Git's conflict markers:

```
<<<<<<< HEAD
This is a conflicting line added on main.
=====
This is a test line added from testbranch.
>>>>>>> testbranch
```

This means:

- Everything between <<<<<<< HEAD and ===== is from the `main` branch
- Everything after ===== and before >>>>>>> testbranch is from the `testbranch`

Clean up the conflict:

Edit the file to keep only one version, or combine both. For example, change it to:

```
This line includes changes from both branches.
```

Make sure to **delete all conflict markers**:

- <<<<<<< HEAD
- =====
- >>>>>>> testbranch

Then save the file.

You've now resolved the conflict in your working directory.

Step 3: Commit the Fix

After editing, return to the Terminal and stage the resolved file:

```
git add example.qmd
git commit -m "Resolve merge conflict in example.qmd"
```

Step 4: Push to GitHub

```
git push
```

You can now see the merge result on GitHub.

See Figure Figure 5 for the resolved conflict commit on GitHub.

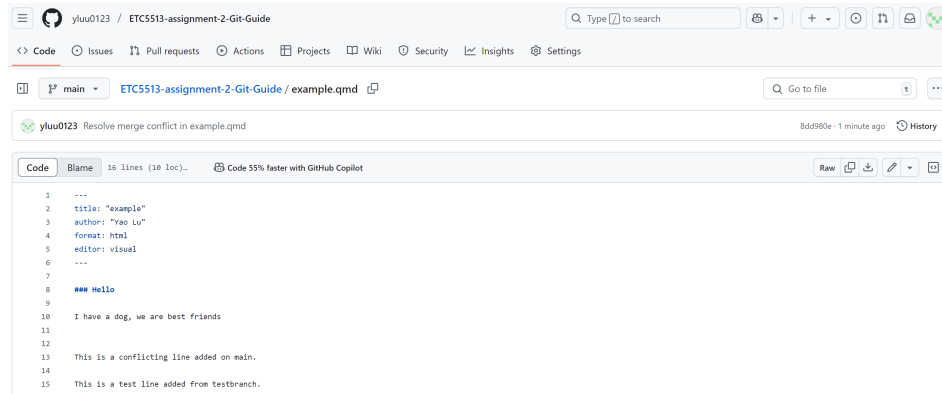


Figure 5: Merge conflict resolved and pushed to GitHub from the main branch.

7 Tag the Commit as v1.0

Now that we've resolved the merge conflict and pushed the final version to GitHub, it's time to tag this milestone commit with a version label. In this case, we'll use **v1.0** to indicate the first complete and stable version of the project.

Tagging makes it easier to reference or return to this point in your project later.

1. Find the Commit to Tag

Use this command to view recent commits:

```
git log --oneline
```

You'll see something like:

```
8dd980e (HEAD -> main, origin/main, origin/HEAD) Resolve merge conflict in example.qmd
93eeb36 Edit example.qmd on main to create conflict
95d7132 (testbranch) Make edits on testbranch
08f74f7 (origin/testbranch) Edit example.qmd and add data folder with dataset
cd28530 Edit example.qmd in testbranch
45d75c7 Add example Quarto file
0055a7a Initial commit
```

In our case, the commit is:

```
8dd980e (HEAD -> main, origin/main, origin/HEAD) Resolve merge conflict in example.qmd
```

2. Create an Annotated Tag

Run the following command to tag this commit:

```
git tag -a v1.0 8dd980e -m "First completed version after merge"
```

Explanation:

- `-a` creates an **annotated tag**
- `v1.0` is the name of the version tag
- `8dd980e` is the commit hash to tag
- `-m` lets us add a short message describing the tag

3. Push the Tag to GitHub

```
git push origin v1.0
```

The tag `v1.0` is now visible in your GitHub repository under the **tags** tab.

See Figure [Figure 6](#) for the `v1.0` tag on GitHub.

8 Delete the testbranch Locally and on GitHub

Now that the `testbranch` has been merged into `main`, and a version tag has been created, we no longer need to keep the branch. Let's delete it both **locally** (on your computer) and **remotely** (on GitHub).

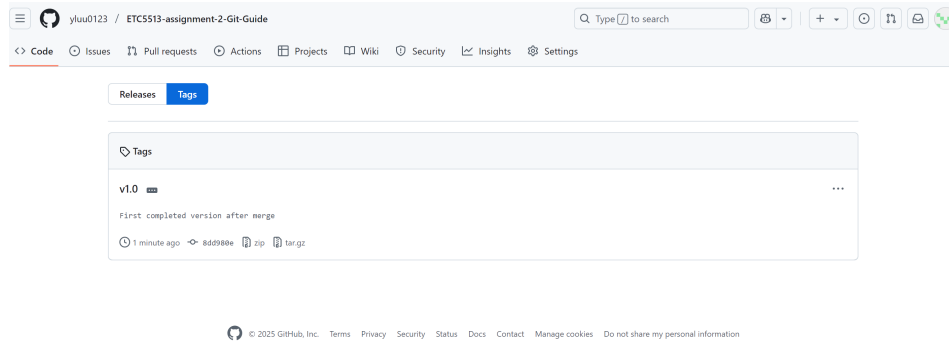


Figure 6: The annotated tag v1.0 was successfully created on the merge commit and pushed to GitHub.

1. Delete the Local Branch

When we first try to delete the branch using:

```
git branch -d testbranch
```

Git returns a warning:

```
warning: not deleting branch 'testbranch' that is not yet merged to
      'refs/remotes/origin/testbranch', even though it is merged to HEAD
error: the branch 'testbranch' is not fully merged
hint: If you are sure you want to delete it, run 'git branch -D testbranch'
hint: Disable this message with "git config set advice.forceDeleteBranch false"
```

Since we have already merged `testbranch` into `main` locally, we can safely **force delete** it:

```
git branch -D testbranch
```

This removes `testbranch` from your local system.

2. Delete the Remote Branch on GitHub

Use the following command:

```
git push origin --delete testbranch
```

This removes the branch from the remote GitHub repository.

See Figure Figure 7 for confirmation that `testbranch` was successfully deleted from GitHub.

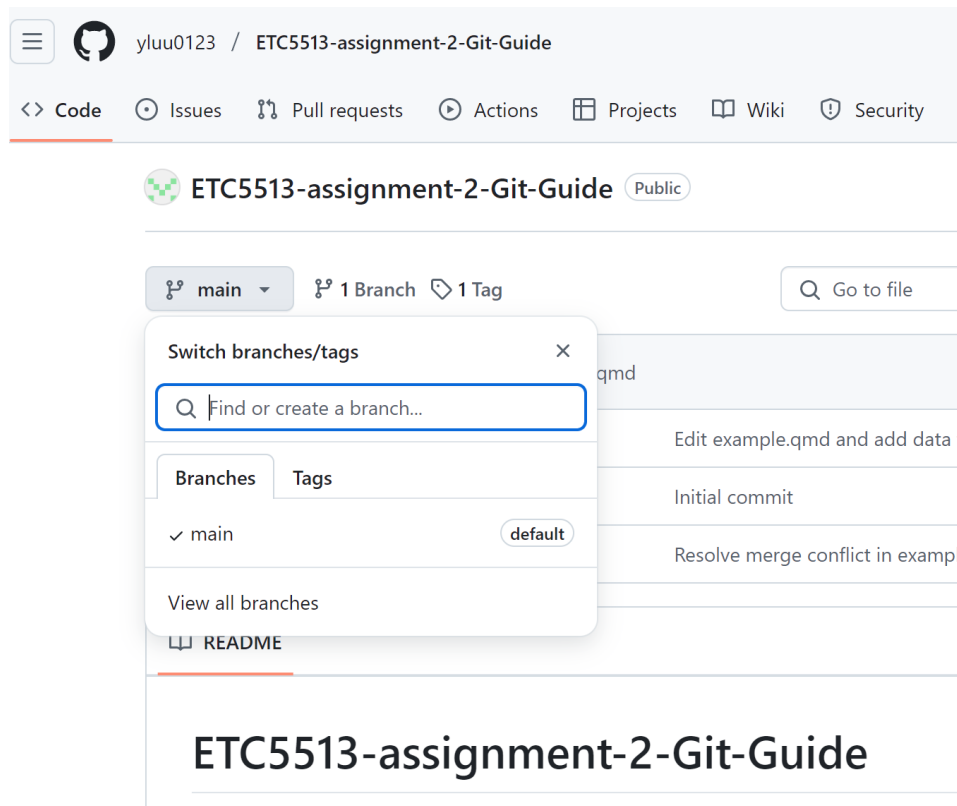


Figure 7: The testbranch was successfully deleted both locally and from the GitHub remote repository.

9 Show the Commit Log in Condensed Form

To display your project's Git history in a **short, easy-to-read format**, you can use the `--oneline` option with `git log`. This is helpful for reviewing your commits, checking version history, or showing a clean summary in a report.

In the **Terminal**, run:

```
git log --oneline
```

You will see output like:

```
8dd980e (HEAD -> main, tag: v1.0, origin/main, origin/HEAD) Resolve merge conflict in example.qmd
93eeb36 Edit example.qmd on main to create conflict
95d7132 Make edits on testbranch
08f74f7 Edit example.qmd and add data folder with dataset
cd28530 Edit example.qmd in testbranch
45d75c7 Add example Quarto file
0055a7a Initial commit
```

Each line shows:

- The **commit ID**
- The commit **message**
- And (if relevant) the current **branch**, **tag**, or **HEAD**

Create a Plot Section and Undo the Commit (Keep Local Changes)

We'll now work directly on the `main` branch, add a plot to `example.qmd`, commit it, and then undo the commit while preserving the changes in the file.

1. Add a New Section with a Plot

In RStudio, open your `example.qmd`. Add the following content:

```
## Gender Life Expectancy Gap Over Time

The following plot shows the global average male and female life expectancy at birth from 19
```

-Figure Figure 8 shows that both male and female life expectancy have increased significantly from 1950 to 2023, with females consistently living longer than males.

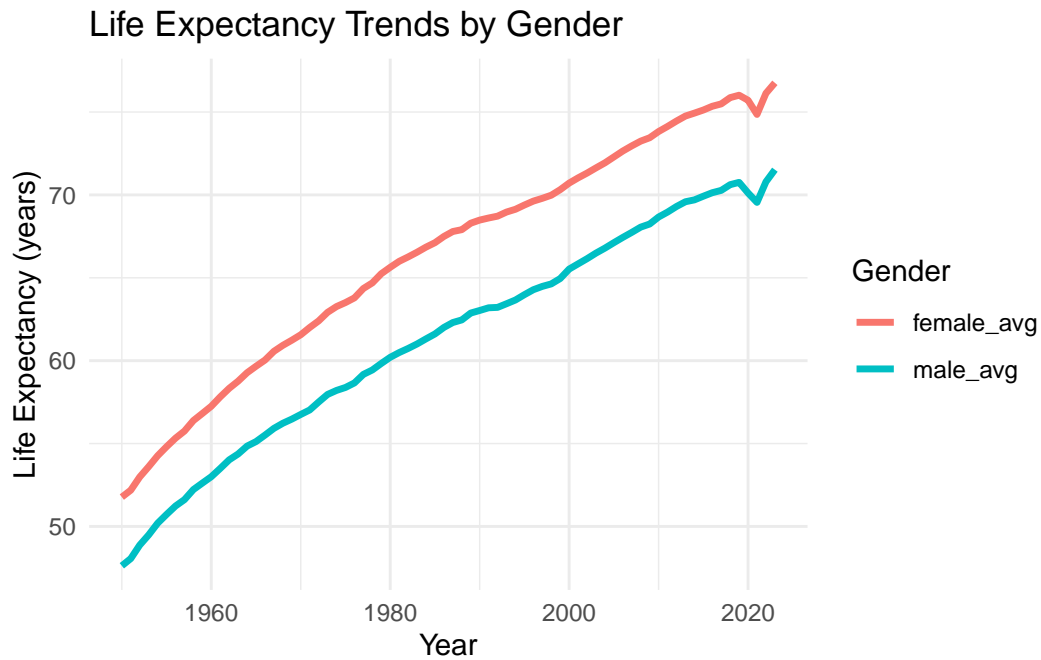


Figure 8: Global trend in male and female life expectancy at birth from 1950 to 2023.

Save the file.

2. Stage and Commit the Plot

In the **Terminal**, run:

```
git add example.qmd
git commit -m "Add global gender life expectancy gap plot"
```

Now the plot section is committed to your Git history.

3. Undo the Commit but Keep Changes

Let's say we realize we want to rewrite the message or delay this commit.

To undo the last commit but keep the changes, run either:

Option A: Soft Reset (Keep staged)

```
git reset --soft HEAD~1
```

This will remove the commit but keep the changes **staged** (ready to commit again).

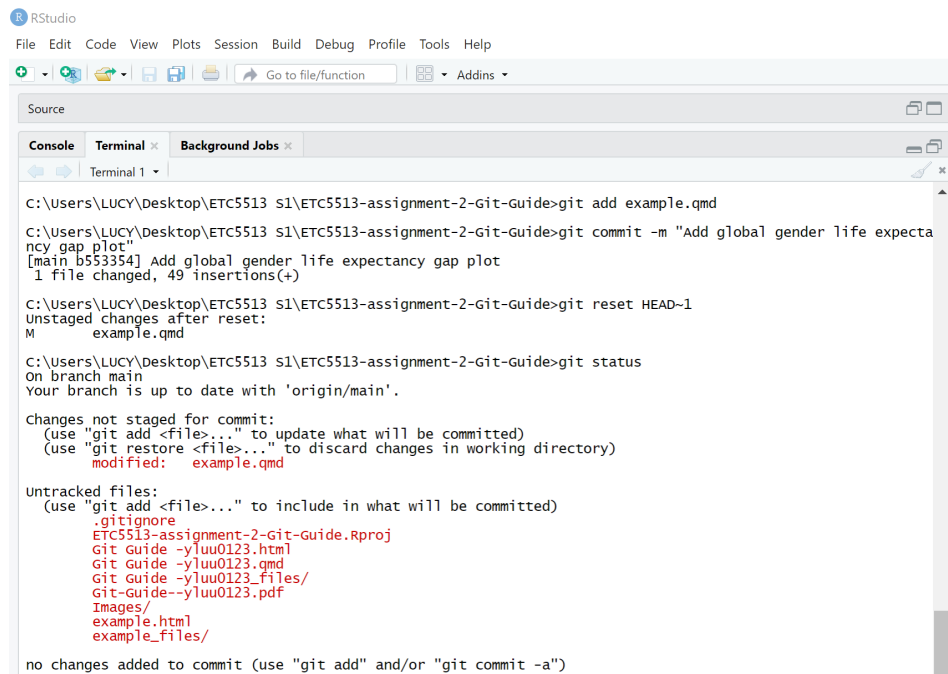
You can now recommit with a new message.

Option B: Mixed Reset (Keep unstaged)

```
git reset HEAD~1
```

This will remove the commit and **unstage** the changes — they go back to the working directory.

See Figure Figure 9 for how we undid the last commit using git reset.



```
RStudio
File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help
Source
Console Terminal x Background Jobs x
Terminal 1
C:\Users\LUCY\Desktop\ETC5513 S1\ETC5513-assignment-2-Git-Guide>git add example.qmd
C:\Users\LUCY\Desktop\ETC5513 S1\ETC5513-assignment-2-Git-Guide>git commit -m "Add global gender life expectancy gap plot"
[main b553354] Add global gender life expectancy gap plot
1 file changed, 49 insertions(+)
C:\Users\LUCY\Desktop\ETC5513 S1\ETC5513-assignment-2-Git-Guide>git reset HEAD~1
Unstaged changes after reset:
M   example.qmd
C:\Users\LUCY\Desktop\ETC5513 S1\ETC5513-assignment-2-Git-Guide>git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.

Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:   example.qmd

Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
        .gitignore
        ETC5513-assignment-2-Git-Guide.Rproj
        Git guide -yluu0123.html
        Git guide -yluu0123.qmd
        Git guide -yluu0123_files/
        Git-Guide--yluu0123.pdf
        Images/
        example.html
        example_files/

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
```

Figure 9: Undoing the last commit using git reset while preserving the local plot changes in example.qmd.

Summary

Action	Result
<code>git merge testbranch</code>	Keeps both histories + creates a merge commit
<code>git reset --soft HEAD~1</code>	Removes last commit, keeps changes staged
<code>git reset HEAD~1</code>	Removes last commit, keeps changes unstaged
<code>git tag -a v1.0</code>	Marks current (or selected) commit with a version label
<code>git log --oneline</code>	View summary history
<code>git push origin --delete branch</code>	Deletes branch from remote

You've now practiced essential Git skills — from branching and committing to conflict resolution and rollback!